

Westmount access opened for 'emergency'

Glen gates swing open to move The Children's into super-hospital

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent provided permission May 21 for a convoy of ambulances to use the emergency Glen Rd. access to the MUHC site for moving patients from the Montreal Children's Hospital into its new quarters at the super-hospital May 24.

"They have requested to use the access because of traffic around the Decarie entrance," he told the *Independent*. Road construction is also under way in the area.

The ambulances used the Glen access to leave the hospital site and return to the old Children's site going north on Glen Rd. and east along St. Catherine, then Dorchester.

While the city's by-law states the gated

access off Westmount's Glen Rd. is to be used only for an emergency on the site, "surely a convoy of ambulances carrying kids constitutes an emergency," Trent said.

It's the first time the road was to be used officially.

It also follows a letter Trent sent the MUHC dated April 1 agreeing to a request to allow use of the access June 20 "in case of an emergency."

That's the day more than 20,000 walkers are expected to converge on the site via the main Decarie entrance as part of opening cele- continued on p. 8

Children's makes its move



On the morning of May 24, a Sunday, the Montreal Children's Hospital moved all its patients to its new location at the Glen site. Mayor Peter Trent gave permission to the MUHC earlier that week to allow a convoy of ambulances to access the emergency road off of Glen Rd. in Westmount. See story at left.

Photo: Matt Faigan

Bike path pushed further north than planned

Dog run relocated off WRC roof, retains same size

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A portion of the new dog run location in Westmount Park has been staked out recently showing how it has been moved off the green roof of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and shifted further north into the park. This, in turn, pushes the bike path farther into the park.

The reason for the change, explains Councillor Cynthia Lulham, is to safeguard

the five-year guarantee on the new WRC roof and membrane, which could have been affected by the dog urine, digging and the driving of fence posts into the earth on top.

"The dog run will be the same size and take the same amount of green space," she said last week. "As we were already moving the bike path, we're just moving it a little more. It will take a larger curve." continued on p. 20

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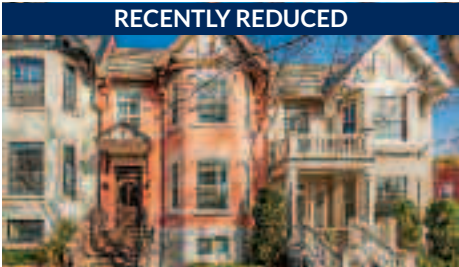
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No opposition to plans for 3217 The Boulevard

Demo hearing brings current owners in touch with builder

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing for substantial changes to a house at 3217 The Boulevard went without opposition from either the public or the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) May 20.

But it did take on an unusual twist when the builder of the house from 1987 through 1993, George Syrovatka, showed up at the meeting and met the current homeowners Naim and Joanne Otaky. They all had an opportunity to become acquainted and exchange information at the end of the session. Syrovatka's father Vladimir had been the architect.

Although the city's Demolition committee adjourned to "deliberate" immediately

after the hearing, its decision would not be announced before it was prepared in writing, according to its chairperson, Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

Typically the decision document lists various conditions even when the outcome is favourable as could be expected in this case.

The building plan to increase living space by some 50 percent was presented by architect Paul Grenier. He described how this would be achieved by adding a two-storey addition on top of the existing two-car garage and creating a full third floor over all and under a flat roof. Now, only a smaller space under a peaked roof provides an "attic room" (see story April 21, p. 10).

continued on p. 5



An artistic rendering of the house at 3217 The Boulevard after modifications shows the addition of stairs leading up the steep cliff to Belvedere Rd. behind.
Image: Courtesy of Grenier + Richards Architects



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City looks for new Finance head, appoints Dragon to interim role

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council at its mid-month meeting May 19 approved the appointment of Human Resources director Jocelyne Dragon to assume the added role of interim treasurer and director of Finance.

The appointment follows the resignation May 4 of Annette Dupré as treasurer and director of Finance, Mayor Peter Trent explained. "By law, we have to have a treasurer, so it was important that we act quickly while we search for a new one."

In accordance with section 97 of the *Cities and Towns Act*, chapter C-19, "the council shall have an officer or employee of the municipality, called the treasurer, who shall be the collector and depository of all the moneys of the municipality."

The council resolution authorized director general Mike Deegan to pay Dupré "all amounts due to her following the end of her employment with the City," though the exact amount was not disclosed. Dupré had been appointed to the position on a contractual basis for five years starting May 8, 2012.

Dragon, Trent points out, has had previous experience in municipal finance. Before joining Westmount in November 2013, she had worked in Montreal's finance department as director of a project to modernize, develop and implement a new budget system.

She had also served as director of the borough of Lachine from 2007 to 2011 and was director of administration for the borough of St. Laurent, which included finance.

Inebriated Westmounter passes out on street

Public safety officers requested Urgences Santé May 16 when an intoxicated man did not respond to their efforts to "revive" him in front of 4024 St. Catherine, according to Public Security officials. Fire department first responders and Urgences attended. The man was given oxygen and sent to his home on Melville in a taxi. He was aged about 25.

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The Boulevard cont'd. from p. 3

Because this “replacement” plan requires removal of more than 50 percent (in this case 65 percent) of the roof and facades, a demolition permit is required by the city even though the house itself will not be completely destroyed.

Built into the steep cliff leading up to Belvedere Rd., the house is only barely visible from The Boulevard, nestled just north and slightly east of the historic white Braemar house.

Wind blows down fencing, branch

Heavy wind May 12 blew down security fencing around a work site at 4302 Montrose, Public Security officials said. The metal grating enclosure was repositioned after discovery at 5:48 pm. No damage was reported.

At 6:14 pm, a falling branch from a tree at the back of 184 Côte St. Antoine was reported to have pulled out electrical wires supplying a house at civic number 178. Hydro Westmount crews arrived at 8:05 pm to cut away the branch and restore power.

Spectacular views

Its “quiet location and spectacular views” are among interesting characteristics of the setting, Grenier explained. The house has become too small for a growing family, however, and its layout is unsatisfactory.

Julia Gersovitz, who chairs the PAC, the city’s design review committee, explained that the property was one of the portions of the land that had once belonged to Braemar. The house, itself, was considered to be of “neutral value,” for which reason the PAC did not oppose the demolition.

Lulham reported the city had not received any applications for intervention in the project following the posting of plans and the publication of notices.

The house is reported to have been granted a demolition permit many years ago to allow for construction of a Georgian-style stone house having four corner chimneys that was never built. The current owners said they had lived there five and a half years.

The full three-member Demolition panel was in attendance, including councillors Theodora Samiotis and Victor Drury.



At the end of the demolition hearing May 20, from left, architect Paul Grenier meets with original builder George Syrovatka and homeowners Naim and Joanne Otaky.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MURRAY ALSO NEEDS HELP

One of your readers stated Westmount Park was in a deplorable state (“Westmount Park needs help,” May 12, p. 6). Its sister to the north, Murray Park, or King George Park as some call it, is in a similar state.

When I first moved to Westmount over 40 years ago, it was beautifully staffed and maintained. Now pavement on paths is dangerously cracked, uneven, and still sports winter sand and gravel because new machines don’t do the job of old brooms.

Grass beside these paths is chewed up and laid bare by park “workers” driving back and forth in “service” trucks.

Formerly well-tended and plentiful flower beds have been dispensed with and many are overgrown with weeds. The playground equipment is dilapidated; the sand box, which was formerly, along with the rest of the area, raked daily, has emptied and spilled into the area around it.

Nearby, two lamp standards are missing, one with wires exposed at ground level. The fish pond, once a prime feature of the park, is dried and dirty. It hasn’t functioned properly for years. The fish left long ago.

One working toilet remains, deep in the

men’s changing room (sorry ladies), better, I suppose than the port-a-potties of last summer.

A few feet from this area is a plaque celebrating the park placed there to honour the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

GAIL JARISLOWSKY, MURRAY AVE.

LEAF BLOWING A MENACE

Since May 1, contracted gardeners have been using leaf blowers. They state that the period for their use was prolonged. Who authorized this?

Leaf blowers year-round make lots of pollution: Infernal noise, dust in the air, CO2 from the gasoline, eroding the soil.

Why are they still allowed to blow all the debris and dust onto the roads and not instead to the rear of the properties? Dust and debris left on the streets are swept up by passing cars and make the air unbreathable for children with asthma or other respiratory problems.

Are we a healthy and ecological city?

Leaf-blowers should be banned year-long and rakes should replace them instead.

DOROTA TARASKA, COTE ST. ANTOINE

Editor’s note: Under the city’s noise by-law,

leaf blowers may be operated during the spring clean-up period April 1 and May 1.

This year, however, according to Public Security officials, due to a later than usual winter thaw, an extension was provided that expired May 9. It is also our understanding that municipalities in Quebec do not have the power to totally ban certain things, including leaf blowers. – KM

OPEN LETTER TO COUNCILLOR PHILIP CUTLER

The following text is copied from Wikipedia with a clear definition of traffic congestion: “Traffic congestion is a condition on road networks that occurs as use increases, and is characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times, and increased vehicular queuing. The most common example is the physical use of roads by vehicles. When traffic demand is great enough that the interaction between vehicles slows the speed of the traffic stream, this results in some congestion.”

Traffic congestion is a huge problem at the corners of St. Catherine and Victoria; St. Catherine and Lansdowne; Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve; and de Maisonneuve and Victoria.

It is really impossible to picture this situation in Westmount. My son asked me: “Mom, are we in a traffic jam in Westmount?”

Think about the danger when a pedestrian is trying to cross the street at the intersection of St. Catherine and Victoria. Not a single car stops. Everybody is furious with this impossible traffic.

This is not to request a miracle to fix the traffic congestion, but at least to act in order to protect the Westmount pedestrians when this horrible traffic congestion occurs: i.e. a pedestrian safety/stop light.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

DOGS+TENNIS BALLS=CRAZY

Am I the only one sane enough to think a dog run being set up next to tennis courts is thought up by some insane people?

Dogs get fixated on balls and especially ones of the bright green and orange persuasion. Am I wrong? Who in their right mind would put a stamp of approval on this idea?

I think I am imagining this but I see they are preparing a length of gravel right along the long side of the tennis courts. This is a recipe for disaster. It is at the opening of Westmount Park, a beautiful serene park that will now lose all that.

As I walk my dog daily near that location

as well as on the pathway on the bottom of Lansdowne and St. Catherine where the old dog run used to be, I really have to question what was involved that they decided not to place it in this green area that is not being used at all!

ALLAN GOLDBERG, ST. CATHERINE ST.

FINAL REDFERN INSULT?

At 4:45 am on May 14, Redfern residents were awoken by the noisy delivery of an aerial work platform to the 215 Redfern worksite, the latest in a series of violations of Westmount’s by-laws that have occurred since the beginning of construction, 38 months ago, and which have continued since the city declared the building complete in March.

During those months, we Redfern residents have had to put up with, besides other disruptions, constant dirt from the extremely poorly maintained site. Our yards are filled with debris, our windows opaque with dust, our windowsills are cleaned with vacuums, not cloths. The insides of our homes are covered with the grime from the site, and goodness knows what we are breathing.

In April 2012, at the beginning of construction, residents suggested to the developer, Joseph Berger, that he could gain some goodwill by arranging to clean his neighbours’ windows, a suggestion he flatly refused. It is insult to injury, therefore, to realize that the aerial platform, delivered with such urgency in the middle of the night, was used for the vital purpose of cleaning the windows of the 215 building, so that new occupiers will enjoy a beautiful view of their bedraggled, long-suffering neighbours.

It is to Mr. Berger’s personal shame that he was not willing to make the slightest goodwill gesture to his neighbours. However, it is to the discredit of Westmount city council that they have not obliged him to take responsibility for his mess. The city’s renewal of the 215 construction permit in October 2013 and issue of a landscaping permit in October 2014 were missed opportunities to demand higher standards from the site and to ensure that Mr. Berger took responsibility for the disruption and misery that he was causing. By failing to do so, Westmount city council made his faults their own.

JUNJI ATSUMI, CLAUDIA BESSO, CANDICE CARTIER, GRANT CURRIE, RICHARD DUMONT, VRINDA NARAIN, KALEEM SIDDIQI AND TIMOTHY SLONOSKY, REDFERN AVE.

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LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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

Out of season, out of luck



A contractor was ticketed \$270 May 14 for using a leaf blower out of season, Public Security officials said. He was spotted at work at 9:38 am outside 4350 Montrose by a patroller.

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Parking poll to be delivered to Mount Stephen residents providing 3 options

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mount Stephen residents can expect to receive a parking survey of their street in the next couple of weeks from the city, the *Independent* learned last week. In the meantime, yellow visitor passes previously distributed to some may be used between 7 am and 11 pm.

The decision follows an outcry and petition from some residents upset their street was included with Springfield and Metcalfe in the creation of reserved parking zones to help protect parking for local residents in the congested Shaar Hashomayim area.

These are designated for holders of “orange” permits without private parking but not for use by residents who already have driveways or parking pads on their own property but who now also want curbside parking.

The parking survey was announced last week by Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, in the absence

of Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security, following meetings of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on which they both sit, and council.

“We agreed in TAC to poll the entire street on three options,” he said. “These are to keep the status quo, return to what was there before or reduce the current number of orange spots and split them up with non-reserved spots (2-hour parking).”

The choice, he said, will be up to all residents – including those in the apartment building – not only the homeowners who signed a petition seeking a return to curbside parking for anyone. This was presented at the city council meeting May 4 (see story May 12, p. 2).

The petition stated there had not been a parking problem on Mount Stephen before the changes and that the few spots allocated to general 2-hour parking near Sherbrooke were too inaccessible for visitors with mobility issues.

As a result, a city group comprising Cutler, District 3 councillor Victoria Drury,



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District 4 councillor Rosalind Davis and Public Security director Greg McBain met with a group of the residents the next week. “It was a good meeting. We’re hopeful,” said resident Betsy Pomerantz.

The findings were subsequently reported to the TAC meeting May 13 at which it was agreed to send out the survey.

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RAPPEL :

Paiement des taxes foncières le 29 mai 2015

Le deuxième versement pour les comptes de taxes foncières doit être acquitté **au plus tard le vendredi 29 mai 2015**. Le versement est accepté par la poste (par chèque), en personne à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest (argent comptant, chèque ou Interac), ou par voie électronique (téléphone ou Internet) auprès de la majorité des institutions financières.

Pour plus de détails, veuillez consulter le site Web de la Ville au westmount.org ou composez le 514 989-5234.

N.B. Les chèques doivent être libellés au nom de la Ville de Westmount.

REMINDER:

Property taxes due Friday, May 29, 2015

The second instalment of the 2015 municipal taxes is **due May 29, 2015**. Payments are accepted by mail (cheque), in person at Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West (cash, cheque or Interac), or electronically (by phone or Internet) through most major banks.

For more details, consult the City's website at westmount.org or phone 514 989-5234.

Please note that cheques must be made payable to the City of Westmount.

westmount.org

Hospital access cont'd. from p. 1

brations. The walkers will go west from the Dawson College campus along Sherbrooke to Decarie (see story December 2, p. 3).

“Council agrees with your request for a second access to be made available... for the duration of the inauguration celebrations, in case of an emergency,” Trent wrote.

“In any event,” he pointed out, “the zoning for the site disallows vehicular access except for the purpose to serve as an emergency access route serving a ‘hospital’ use in the event of an emergency situation on the site.”

Building retention basin

While Westmount zoning does not permit a hospital building on the east side of the site, which is located in Westmount, it did allow the use of land for construction site trailers.

It also issued a permit for the installation of four “cooling towers” on the campus, al-

lowed the building of the emergency access road and issued a permit for the gate as well as one for the building of a water retention basin (see Permits approved, May 19, p. 18).

While only one-foot deep, the basin is expected to prevent heavy rain water run-off coming down the cliff and flooding onto Glen Rd., according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

A recent concern of one resident stating that the paved emergency access road appeared to exceed the six-meter-maximum provided for in the by-law seemed unfounded. Unofficial measurements indicated the road was just at the maximum.

The gates are locked by six padlocks opening from the site side but a small side gate remains open to allow for the passing of pedestrians and cyclists (see photo).

After a public consultation meeting May 17, 2005, the by-law to amend zoning By-law 1303 – MUHC for the zone R3-39-01 was adopted June 6, 2005 by the council of the day: borough mayor Karin Marks and councillors John de Castell and Cynthia Lulham.

Its provisions include that a “a vehicular access point serving as an emergency access to a ‘hospital’ use must be incorporated with a physical barrier to control access” and “the emergency access route to a hospital use must not exceed 19.69 feet



A gate for use by pedestrians and cyclists is the only one open to the MUHC emergency access road off Glen Rd. on May 20. The plantings on the banks to either side are new.

(6.00 meters) in width.”

“We insisted that it be for emergency use only,” Marks recalled last week. The council was also intent on specifying the width and that the road be routinely locked.

The following report was carried by the *Independent* of June 9, 2009 at the start of decontamination of the hospital site:

“People will be very nervous when they see the trucks coming and going,” [Marks]

said. [She] reported that she had met recently with MUHC representatives who confirmed that neither of the consortia bidding on the public-private partnership project was planning to build on the Westmount side of the site, at least “for the foreseeable future.

“The road onto the site from Westmount is intended only for emergency evacuation. It would not be for regular use by ambulances or other emergency vehicles.”

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- Healthy between the ages of 18-80
 - No metal in body
 - No history of brain damage or concussion
 - Right-handed

- Study involves:**
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 - **Cognitive and Neuropsychological testing:** Verbal, paper-pencil and computerised tests assessing various cognitive functions.
 - **Genetic testing:** Blood testing for specific genes related to brain structure and function.
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Phone: 514-761-6131 ext. 4766, **Email:** healthyaging@douglas.mcgill.ca
Principal Investigator: Dr. Mallar Chakravarty

For more information about programs and services at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute please visit www.douglas.gc.ca or call 514-761-6131

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Comin’ Up

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Contactivity Centre and Westmount Park School present their spring InterLink Inter-Generational choir concert, led by Ian Lebofsky, 7 pm at the school’s auditorium. Free admission.

“Atwater Writers Exhibition” celebrating Quebec English-language writers 5 to 7 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Hosted by *Gazette* cartoonist Aislin. The exhibition is to run all summer. See “A new writers’ museum discussed during public consultation,” October 7, 2014, p. 24.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Dramatis Personae, Westmount’s community theatre, performs *Noises Off* until June 1 in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Friday, Saturday and Monday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm and 7 pm. Reserve: www.theatrewestmount.com. Info: 514.484.

2016. Suggested donation \$10.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Thief of Bagdad to screen, with live music, 7:30 pm at the Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Cost: \$13, \$9 for students and seniors at door, or Info Line 514.738.FILM. Info: www.lavitrine.com.

Family Day, 10 am to 4:30 pm in Westmount Park. See “Family Day turns 40 with cake, bracelets May 30 in Westmount Park,” (May 19, p. 8).

WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS

“Cognitive principles” weekly Tuesday meetings in English and French at the Westmount Y, 7 pm. Donations welcome, registration required. Self-help group. Info: 514.485.2194.



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WESTMOUNT MURRAY HILL AVE.	ASKED \$1,650,000
WESTMOUNT KENSINGTON AVE.	ASKED \$1,598,000
WESTMOUNT MURRAY HILL AVE.	ASKED \$1,589,000
WESTMOUNT CLARKE AVE.	ASKED \$1,285,000
VILLE-MARIE MANOIR BELMONT	ASKED \$850,000
TOWN MT-ROYAL CALEDONIA RD.	ASKED \$1,849,000

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OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM
657 MURRAY HILL AVE.



WESTMOUNT | MURRAY HILL PARK
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REVISED PRICE



WESTMOUNT | SPLENDID & SPACIOUS
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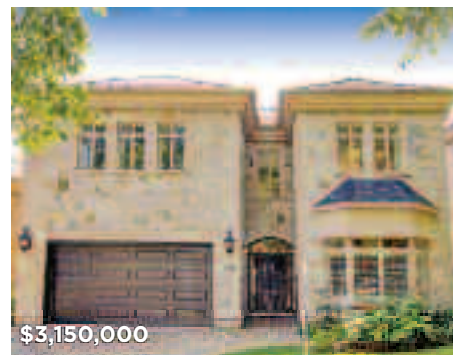
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Peterson, Khalid recognized



Westmounters Julia Peterson, left, and Athina Khalid stand with the 2015 Lieutenant-Governor's medal (youth) May 14 on Dawson College's front steps. The May 2 ceremony took place at École Pierre-Dupuy, and 62 others received a medal. Peterson is in her second year at Dawson, where Khalid, an ECS student, plans to attend in the fall. Peterson explained that "the award is given out for youth who are exceptionally involved in their community. It is a way to validate the hard work of youth heavily involved in the community." Peterson also won the Reach for the Top trivia competition at the provincial level May 7, and along with her Dawson team is to compete in the national competition in Toronto in May.

Photo: Matt Faigan

Plant exchange raises record \$1.5K for second bee hive

A record \$1,545 was raised by the city's perennial plant exchange and sale May 14, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week. This is preliminary to the sale of remaining plants to employees May 21 and 22 and at Family Day May 30.

This year, the proceeds from the event organized by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee will fund the installation of a second bee hive on the roof of the library (see story May 12, p. 14). — LS



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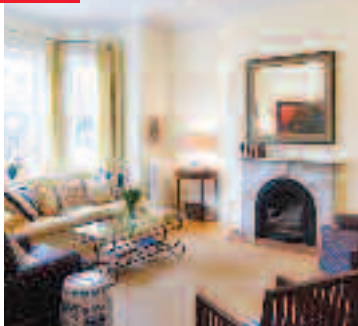


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Ville-Marie, 2055 Fort 2 rentals & 2 for sale. «Le Jardin du Fort». Charming condo, quiet area, superbly equipped apartment. Int. parking, terrasse on the roof. A lovely place to live. Close to metro Guy/Atwater. Universities: Concordia/McGill. \$1,795,000
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WESTMOUNT: 58 St Sulpice, ideally located, 5 bedroom home with large terrace overlooking the city, garden, C# 22690680 \$2,499,000
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Côte-Saint-Luc: 5700 Rembrandt, PH2 Spectacular Condo Penthouse, over 2300 SF plus 4 Patio Doors to Wraparound terrace. Private Gardens. South West Views. 2 Skylights. Amazing, Huge Kitchen and Pantry. One of a Kind! \$750,000
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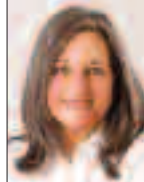
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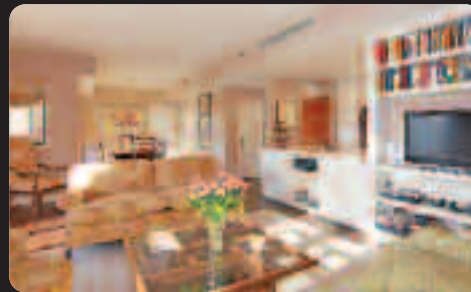
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Westmount For Rent 2 properties, beautiful 4 br family home on quiet Holton Ave (\$6,000), or stunning 2 brm condo at 200 Lansdowne (\$3,000)
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WUNT: 25 Winchester Stylish 4 bdrm residence on block located near Victoria Village. Beautifully red and fenced-in backyard providing maximum 1 car parking. Asking price \$845,000
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WESTMOUNT: 41 Burton Exceptionally spacious and renovated row house on quiet street steps to Victoria Village. Asking price \$882,500
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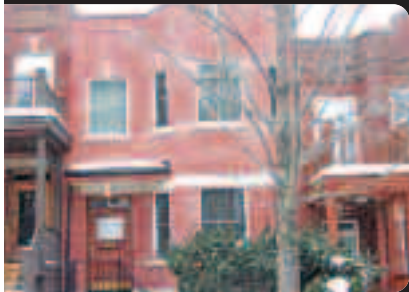


WESTMOUNT: 510 Lansdowne Ave. Beautiful 1898 Victoria stone front on sought after street. New oak floors throughout, 2 large private terraces overlooking a virtual forest. Parking. Well priced. MOTIVATED. mls 21530976 \$475,000
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Open House – Sunday 2-4

Westmount Adj. 1st ad! 2049 Grey, south of Sherbrooke. Fall asleep to the sound of tennis balls on clay courts. 5 brm + sep apt in bsmt. Ideal for doctor's office. \$995,000
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April sales: Still low volume



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 April 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.

Westmount's normally busy spring real estate market sputtered somewhat in April, but prices remained strong including one more \$4-million-plus sale – the third so far this year, compared to only two in all of last year.

Thirteen sales were posted in April, compared to an average 17.7 over the previous seven years, bringing the total for 2015 to only 48, less than the 50 which took place in the first four months of 2009, when the recession of that era was reach-

ing its peak.

Still, the average price of the 13 sales in April was \$1,631,530, and the mark-up was 6.8 percent, similar to the statistics for the entire year so far and higher than the average \$1,527,906 for all of last year.

Days on market high

The average days-on-market was a very high 270, reflecting the fact that three of the houses sold in April had been on the market for well over a year; the second-highest priced sale had been marketed for more than two years, and at \$2.2 million went for less than its municipal evaluation, one of three houses to be marked down in the month.

Three houses sold for less than \$1 million in April, including another of the townhouses in front of the Westmount railroad station which sold for \$546,000. The other two were between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

Three condominium apartments sold last month, all for prices between \$425,000 and \$495,000 and an average mark-up of 10 percent, while one co-op apartment at 3 Westmount Square – again, on the market

for well over two years – sold for \$1,425,000. Two others in 2 and 3 Westmount Square have sold this year for \$800,000 and \$900,000. Last month's price is the highest for any apartments there since 2010-12, when a number of high-priced apartments sold.

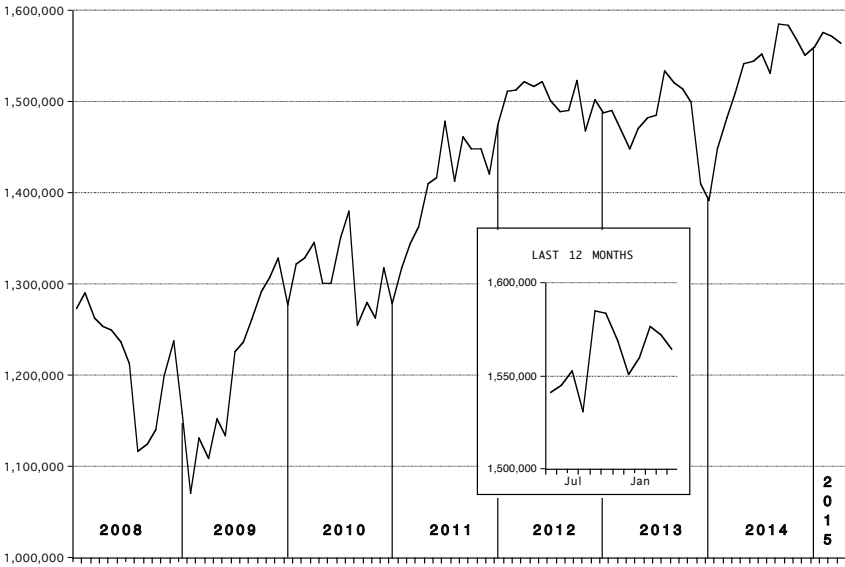
Joining Westmount in \$1-million range

In adjacent-Westmount areas, nine houses and a duplex sold for prices from \$788,000 to \$2,575,000, with only two less than \$1 million. It appears these districts – including the Square Mile in downtown Montreal – have joined Westmount's "mil-

lion-dollar" bandwagon. In the first three months of the year, 12 sales were posted at less than \$1 million compared to only 7 above that level; now those figures have turned around with a vengeance!

As of this writing (in mid-May), some 164 single-family houses were listed for sale, 61 for over \$2 million including five for more than \$5 million. Only 15 are listed at under \$1 million. Another 22 houses are listed for rent, anywhere from \$2,300 to \$25,000 per month.

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



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ECS hosts CAIS conference



ECS hosted the annual conference for Canadian Association of Independent Schools between April 29 and May 3. Member schools sent delegates to develop leadership skills and complete a community service project. Speakers included public affairs professional Désirée McGraw, journalist and CBC host Mark Kelley, MP Marc Garneau and Rosanna Tomiu. Some 125 students participated. They are pictured here May 2 at ECS, wearing different colours to designate their groups, which mixed delegates from different schools.

Photo courtesy of ECS

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44 ANWOTH RD. \$1,695,000



3656 THE BOULEVARD \$1,799,000



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WESTMOUNT ADJ. \$849,000



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Westmouter found on wrong roof



A young Westmount man was found on the roof of a condo building at 4215 de Maisonneuve the night of May 12, Public Security officials said. Public safety officers were responding to a call from a resident at 9:53 pm saying someone was walking on her roof. When the man came down, he was turned over to police who had been called by Public Security. He was identified as a 19-year-old living half a dozen blocks away. The only public access to the roof was found to be an emergency staircase from the rear lane. A condo association official was advised to check out the matter.

New commanding officer sworn in



The official installation of the new commanding officer of the 2nd Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery took place at its armoury, located on Côtes des Neiges Rd., May 23. The new commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvie Pelletier, is the second woman in Canada to lead a combat unit in the Canadian military. The Westmount Field Battery was created in 1905 and is now part of the regiment. It will be celebrating 110 years this month. From left: Westmounters Jane Martin and city councillor Patrick Martin, Barbara Victor, Chantal Bourque, Elyse Desforages, Pelletier, Carol Anne Mazerolle, honorary colonel and Westmouter Charles de Kovachich, Claude Guay, Steve Gregory, Linda Singer, Jeffrey Drummond and Gary Walfish.

Photo: Matt Faigan

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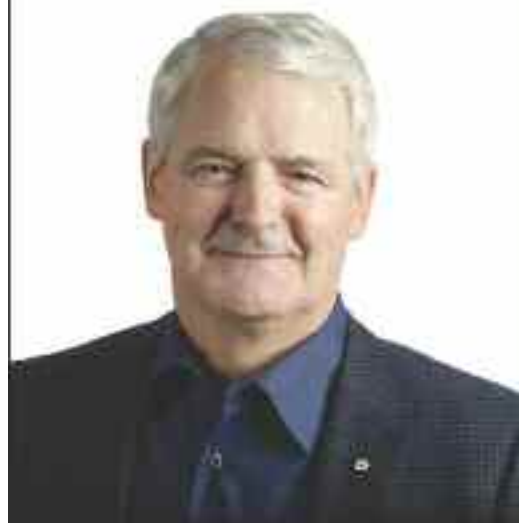
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Billy Christmas elected to Sports Hall of Fame

Westmounter Billy Christmas (1879-1941) has been posthumously elected to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. The group, located in Calgary, is recognizing him in the "Canadian Sports Legends Class, Athletes" category.

As a member of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, which had facilities at what is now Westmount Athletic Grounds beginning in 1887, William Cecil Christmas played hockey and lacrosse. He was also a member of the Britannia rugby club, played football – for which the *Gazette* dubbed him the "prince of halfbacks" – and boxed, winning the Amateur Boxing Championship of Canada in 1899 in the lightweight class.

Christmas' place of birth is not known, but by 1901 he was living in Westmount. After his marriage to Hattie Turk, he lived on Columbia Ave., where they had four children. He worked in importing and exporting, and late in life championed a

celles St. One contemporary obituary called Billy, "one of the most famous athletes of a generation ago."

Gerry, a retired teacher now living in Thailand after working in North Carolina, took on the work of getting Billy into the hall of fame, beginning his archival work in November 2014.

Gerry was born in Montreal and grew up in Massachusetts.

Westmount connections

"I last visited Montreal and Westmount in 1997 to bury my father, William Richard Christmas," Gerry wrote to the *Independent*, who "wanted to be buried next to my mother, Marcelle (née Hudon) Christmas in Côte des Neiges cemetery...I took my wife and two daughters to his childhood residence at 65 Columbia Ave... We had a great time. I have always felt terribly close to the city of my birth. Sadly, my mother was told not to speak French when we immigrated to the United States, hence both my brother and I cannot speak 'the language of love.'"

Gerry was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand and Western Samoa from 1973 to 1978. Three years ago, he returned and has been tutoring English and writing. His most recent book is *Breathing the Same Air: A Peace Corps Romance*. His father also wrote a memoir, *Leavings: A Canadian Love Story*.

Both Gerry and his brother, William of Taos, New Mexico, will be on hand when Billy is formally inducted into the hall of fame on June 17.

Billy has five other grandchildren: Mary Louise Orr of Kamloops; George Walkem of Vancouver; Martha McCallum of Windsor, Ontario; Christine Christmas of Phoenix, Arizona, and William Alan Christmas

of Port Royal, Virginia.

At least one close family member lives in Westmount still: Billy's great-niece is Sherill Thompson (née Christmas), wife of former city councillor Tom Thompson.

Street blocked for 16-foot steel beams

Public safety officers stepped in May 14 to help a contractor unload 16-foot steel beams at Greene and St. Catherine for the installation of an elevator nearby. Public Security officials said officers blocked the area to traffic at 9:20 am so a lift could move the beams off the truck. The manoeuvre was completed at 9:53 am.



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AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1486

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le règlement n° 1486 intitulé « *RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 1318 SUR LES TARIFS* » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d'une séance extraordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 19 mai 2015.

L'objet de ce règlement vise à:

- augmenter les frais de location des patinoires et des salles d'exercice ou salles polyvalentes au Centre des loisirs de Westmount, ainsi que pour l'utilisation des terrains de jeux dans le parc Westmount;
- augmenter les frais des laissez-passer donnant accès à la piscine, aux courts de tennis et à la patinoire pour le hockey et le patinage pour les non-résidents;
- mettre à jour la liste des tarifs des activités pour la session automne / hiver décrite à l'annexe I; et
- ajouter les modalités relatives à la politique de remboursement en annexe.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne peut consulter ce règlement sur le site Web de la Ville, au www.westmount.org, et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 26 mai 2015.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1486

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law No. 1486 entitled "*BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1318 CONCERNING TARIFFS*" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount during its special sitting held at City Hall on May 19, 2015.

The object of this by-law is to:

- increase the fees for the rental of ice rinks and the exercise or multipurpose rooms at the Westmount Recreation Centre, as well as for the use of playing fields in Westmount Park;
- increase the fees of guest passes for non-residents giving access to the pool, the tennis courts and the ice rink for hockey and skating;
- update the list of activity fees for the Fall/Winter session described in Annex I; and
- add the terms and conditions relating to the refund policy in annex.

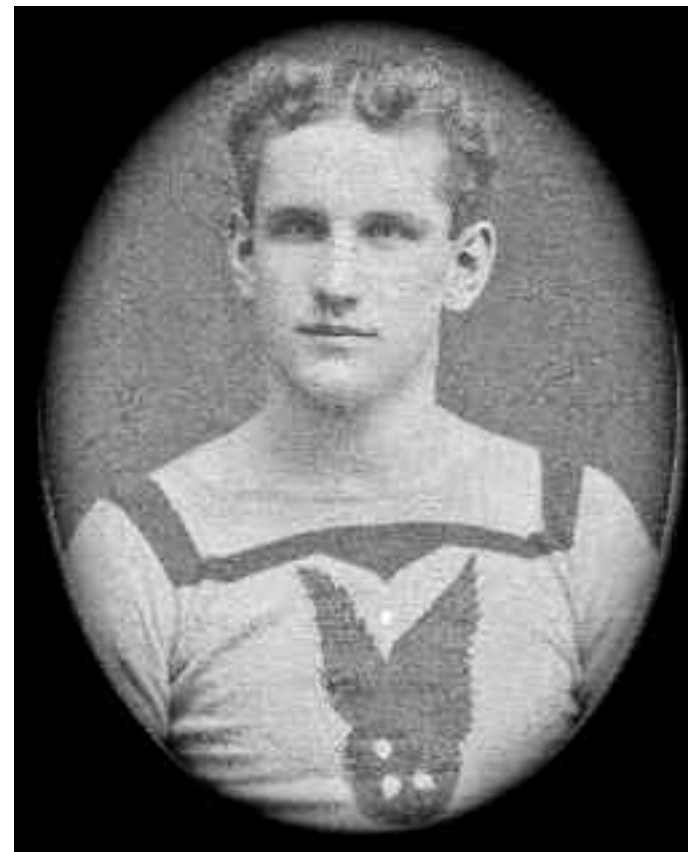
This by-law comes into force in accordance with the law.

Any person may consult said By-law on the City's Website, www.westmount.org, and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this 26th day of May, 2015.

Nicole Dobbie
Greffière adjointe / Assistant City Clerk

www.westmount.org



Billy Christmas in his 1898 Montreal Amateur Athletic Association "Winged Wheel" uniform for the Montreal Lacrosse Club.

Photo courtesy of G. Christmas

group hospitalization plan "whereby the poor and the middle class could get decent healthcare," according to a biography by grandson Gerry Christmas.

He died at his eventual home on De-

Punching ‘match’ broken up

Public safety officers helped break up a fight between a woman and three other people May 12 in front of Alexis Nihon Plaza on Atwater, Public Security officials report. A patroller hearing screams at 4:38 am found an altercation degenerating into a fight in which the woman was “punching” the others. Police were called and officers separated those involved.

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MAY BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting May 4.

26 Shorncliffe: two permits, one to cut some trees in the front yard on Roxborough Ave. and another to reconfigure the walkway and landing with some minor landscaping at the front, as well as landscaping in the rear yard along with installation of a slide for the pool, mechanical equipment, a fence and the building of an accessory building;

4075 St. Catherine: to install three signs

3180 The Boulevard: at a Category I house, to do some landscaping, provided soft curving lines are introduced in the planting bed at the base of the front of the building façade;

3227-3233 St. Antoine: to replace balcony railings and build a new rear staircase;

24 Somerville: at a Category I house, to do some minor landscaping in the front yard, modify rear landscaping and install new fences;

27 Rosemount: at a Category I house, to build a deck facing Rosemount, a metal

install a railing on the retaining wall and do some rear landscaping;

4338 Montrose: to replace two storm windows and three double-hung windows;

485 Roslyn: to install some news doors.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting May 19.

4355 Montrose: at a Category I house, front and rear landscaping to include a new basement access;

CUSM/MUHC: at the new super-hospital, landscaping on the Westmount portion of land to include integration of a water retention basin one foot deep;

386 Victoria: to install a new sign for “Olive en folie”;

646 Murray Hill: to block an existing window and enlarge the rear door opening for a sliding patio door;

339 Lansdowne: to install a rear fence;

482 Strathcona: to cut a tree in the front yard;

41 Surrey Gardens: to cut two trees in the front yard;

72 Summit Circle: at a Category I house, to replace some windows on the west elevation;

16 Melbourne: at a Category I house, to build a rear balcony, replace a window and modify a garage opening;

4873 Westmount: at Marianopolis College, a Category I building, to undertake Phase 2 of a landscaping project including installation of new lamp posts along the front parking and walkway area;

322 Victoria: at a Category I house, to modify a rear opening, build a deck and replace the paved surfaces of the back yard with new landscaping provided the base of the patio

continued on p. 19



A view of 26 Shorncliffe May 20.

for the restaurant “Sushi Crystal”;

486 Mount Pleasant: to build a new front landing, staircase and walkway, provided the proposed planting is extended along the structure of the balcony to camouflage its base;

fence and landscaping;


336 Wood: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and a door at the rear;

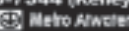
11 Severn: to do some landscaping and build two small retaining walls at the rear;

337 Kensington: to enlarge a rear deck,

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Permits cont'd. from p. 18

doors is increased in height;

626 Sydenham: at a Category I house, to replace the side bay window with a new sunroom;

796 Lexington: to carry out interior and exterior renovations and replace doors and windows;

629 Clarke: front landscaping to include rebuilding retaining walls;

20 Academy: at a Category I building for Narnia daycare, to landscape playground area of Melville Ave. yard;

4148A St. Catherine: for UPS, to create a new opening for rear doors;

460 Lansdowne: to rebuild front porch and stairs;

4374 de Maisonneuve: to rebuild the front and rear stairs, and renovate rear balconies provided the fasciae (friezes under a roof edge) and columns are wood.

294 Grosvenor: to modify openings at the rear leading to the covered balcony;

4465 Montrose: landscaping work at front and rear;

110 Upper Bellevue: landscaping at front and side;

88 Summit Crescent: to replace windows and guard rail at rear of second storey.

No noisy work on weekend, legal holiday

It may have been ideal weather for working on the house outdoors but the city's noise regulations resulted in several projects being stopped on Sunday, May 17 and the legal holiday on Victoria Day Monday, Public Security officials said.

On the Sunday, work was stopped at 9:18 am in the back yard of 4880 Westmount Ave., where an electric saw and nail gun were being used to add wood to a patio. Ten minutes later, another complaint was

received about work on a deck at 4314 Montrose.

On the Monday, work was stopped at 4753 The Boulevard; at 25 Aberdeen, where a pool was being pressure sprayed; and at 188 Côte St. Antoine, where a small bulldozer was being used in the installation of a new pool. In all cases, contractors stated they did not know it was a legal holiday in Westmount.

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Tina the trooper



The Underdog Club

JANE DAVEY

Since her release from a puppy mill, this brave little cocker spaniel mix has been putting her best paw forward into a new life.

Puppy mills are factories where masses of dogs just like Tina are confined to cages and used for the sole purpose of breeding more dogs to sell. They are denied even the most basic of care.

When Tina was first taken outdoors, she simply froze in place. For a puppy mill survivor, everything – human touch included – is jarringly new and a total shock to the senses.



Watching Tina experience life outside the mill is bittersweet, according to the Frontier Animal Society. Now she approaches people she knows with a big wiggle-waggle of her whole hind end but still shies away if you reach out to her. She also tends to stiffen when picked up but is starting to relax overall with familiar people.

In fact, Tina has apparently been doing so well in the five or so weeks she's been with the rescue that her caregivers predict she'll just blossom in the right home. There's a higher-than-average success rate for rehabilitated puppy mill dogs, and they get usually get rave reviews from their adopters.

Tina, who's about 4 years old and in good health, needs a home without young children and a caretaker who doesn't work full-time to provide a stable and consistent routine. Another dog in place to help teach her the ropes would be great. She'll also need continued work on her house training.

If you're the one to undertake this rewarding journey with Tina, contact the Frontier Animal Society at frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com or 819.876.7747 any day of the week between 8 am and 8 pm.

On Sly

Perk-ups of the month: Perky senior pomeranian Sly from the SPCA Annexe was recently adopted after a reader spotted his profile in the Underdog Club column (May 5, p. 24.) We also heard from Sophie's Dog Adoption that they found a home for coonhound Miss Daisy (May 12, p. 17).

'Pet awareness' table

A "pet awareness table" will be set up at Family Day in Westmount Park on Saturday, May 30. Representatives of Gerdy's Rescue and the Montreal SPCA are expected to join, as well as K911 Pet Ambulance.

Dog run cont'd. from p. 1

The original plan remains intact for the portion of the run that goes east-west along the north side of the tennis courts. It is only at the part at the west end that will now jut north instead of south.

The project has already gone to tender, and it is expected that the winning bid would be on the council agenda for the Monday, June 1 council meeting.

While the capital works budget for this year allocated \$50,600 for the new dog run, a grant from the agglomeration council is still expected to fund, or help finance, the relocation of the bike and pedestrian paths, lighting and landscaping. This was budgetted at \$101,200.

New pedestrian walkways are also being planned, as well as three raised pedestrian "tables" (crossings) over the bike path that will be highlighted by lit bollards to "clearly indicate to cyclists that you can't race through the park," Lulham told the *Independent*.

The crossings are to be at the Lansdowne entrance to the park, the soccer fields, where the entrance to the dog run also will be located, and at the gazebo.

"Our primary concern is for the safety of pedestrians. It is a park that just happens to have a bike path running through it," Lulham said.

Dan Lambert, president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association, said that judging by a plan he had seen "a while ago" and from the more recent stakes and paint markings, he is concerned by changes in the bike path.

The creation of "two more sharp curves and a decline/incline," affects cyclist sight lines, he said. An element of unpredictability has also been introduced by the crossing of dogs on leash entering and exiting the dog run. He referred to the de Maisonneuve bike route as "a regional bike path" and said it had already been "squeezed" into a steep narrow turn by the WRC and suggested the city was "chipping away at the quality of the bike path."



Looking east, along the bike path, May 20: A view of a portion of land in Westmount Park to be used by a part of the new dog run as staked out in blue.

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Celadon features Christofle



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On March 18, a lovely *Town & Country*-style invitation announced an event at Celadon, co-owned by **Roy Caro** and design guru **Scott Yetman**, who creates divine décors for international clients.

Co-hosted with Christofle, the silver flatware and accessories house from Paris, the cocktail featured a range of table settings designed by Yetman, Les Ensembliers and fellow designer **Steven Shadowitz**. Some places were set with the elaborately decorated patterned silverware for which Christofle is famous. Other places were set with more modern pieces.

Christofle celebrates a long heritage. It was founded in 1830 when Charles Christofle took over a jewelry workshop. Now the brand is seen on top tables all over the world, from Palm Beach to London, Dubai to Dallas, and of course, in Montreal. The firm's factory in Yainville, Normandy often creates new collections



From left: Amy Malenfant, Scott Yetman and Kelly Latmore.



From left: Roy Caro, Christine Molson and Roberto Reino.

with such world-renowned designers as **Andrée Putman** and **Marcel Wanders**.

Parisian-chic **Roberto Reino** represented Christofle, having flown in from the City of Lights for the special eve.

Enjoying champagne and canapés by Claudia's Catering were Westmounters **Christine** and **Eric Molson**, **Valerie** and **Henry Price**, **Dimitri Hatzeperetos**, **Linda Sigal**, **Earl Veinish**, and **Bunny Berke** and **Larry Lusko**.

Noted admiring the tables were **Jean Michel Lavoie**, colour-master **Aurélien Guillory**, **Kelly Latmore**, **Amy Malenfant**, **Stéphanie Bien-Aimé**, **Valorie Finnie**, **Alain Bauffe**, **Marie-Josée Cousineau**, **Daniel Inti Santos**, and the blonde and beautiful Quebec singer **Patsy Gallant**.

There were two marvelous silent auction pieces: Furniture by Celadon and a serving dish by Christofle raised \$2,500 for Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, represented by **Alanna Elias**. The 5-à-7 soirée was full of spirit and elegance, much like the prestigious house of Christofle itself.

continued on p. 22

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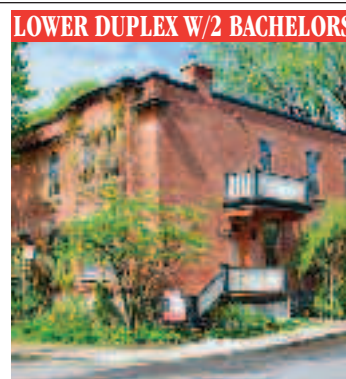
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Not always what it seems

A call from a Redfern resident May 14 stating a crane was being unloaded at the early hour of 4:48 am for the condo site at 215 Redfern, turned out to have nothing to do with the site. Instead, Public Security officials said, patrollers found that a flatbed truck passing through had stopped on St. Catherine in front of the corner site so the driver could simply check out the rear lights.



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Celadon event glamorous

cont'd. from p. 21



From left: Aurélien Guillory, Stephanie Bien-Aimé and Daniel Inti Santos.



From left: Dimitri Hatzeporos, Linda Sigal and Earl Veinish.

Cook honoured by Scottish society

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter May Cook was honoured May 9 by the Quebec Thistle Council at the Black Watch Armoury of Canada, where she received the prestigious Scotswoman of the Year award.

The ceremony, held annually since 1995, recognizes individuals who play an important role in furthering the Scottish community. Other recipients include former brewer and former Westmounter Peter McAuslan and astronaut Steve McLean.

Born and raised in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire near Glasgow, Scotland, Cook moved

to Canada in 1954 with her husband Archie Cook. Over the years, she worked with organizations such as the Greater Montreal Scottish Societies, Ladies Auxiliary to the Order of Scottish Clans in Canada and the US, and the Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association.

Cook became the first woman in 115 years to be elected as Canadian Grand Chief of the Sons of Scotland. She is still very involved with Sons of Scotland and with the Scottish Center in Verdun.

The Quebec Thistle Council, founded in 1987, is an umbrella organization that unites Quebec's many Scottish societies.

Local teen warned about alcohol in park

An 18-year-old Westmount resident was given a verbal warning May 16 not to bring alcoholic beverages into a city park, Public Security officials said. He was found seated on a bench in King George (Murray) Park near Belmont Cresc. at 11 pm along with a group of teens. He was the only one with a container in his hand, unopened, but 11 empties were located nearby. The group was asked to clean up and leave.

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Prada store launched at Holt Renfrew



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On March 25, Prada, the prestigious fashion brand from that most stylish of cities – Milano – launched its new Montreal location at Holt Renfrew. The evening was a benefit for the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) Foundation, represented

by its president **Marie-Josée Gariépy**.

Arrivals stiletto-stepped over the black-and-white marble-checked carpets to admire the ready-to-wear collection. Finally out of winter clothes! (Well, almost. Some ladies still wore fur coats and boots.)

Committee members included Birks Group VP **Eva Hartling**; PR exec **Marissa Nuss**; Fondation du Musée d'art contemporain (MAC) board member **Christine Boivin**; MAC ball chair **Debbie Zakaib**; Musée National des Beaux Arts de Québec supporter **Diane Vachon** and **Anna Antonopoulos**, VP of the Antonopoulos



David Lapierre, left, and Normand Ciarlo.

Group.

Westmounters noted included **Dominique Bertrand**, pretty in a pink long-sleeved dress with ruffled hem, there with daughter **Rosemarie**, whose pant suit jacket had buttons up to the elbow; designer **Hilary Radley** and **Mary Daily Desmarais** along with Holt's divisional VP **Normand Ciarlo** and **David Lapierre**.

Maria Antonopoulos, media mavens **Cheryl Besner** (CJAD) and **Erica Diamond** (Global Montreal); **Rinku Mondal** (wearing ready-for-spring pastel mauve and a peach jacket), **Blakes** partner **Natalie Bussière** – on trend in a Prada dress with bright leaves and florals on a black background; **Adam Van Vlaardingen**; **Debbie Schouella** and

daughter **Leslie**; director **Christoffe** Montreal **Roberto Reino**; **Bunny Berke**; sisters **Jenny** and **Nissa Khan**; **Sonia Price**; **Ksenia Boeva**; **Janis Brownstein**; **Bradley Grill**; **Joanne Nemeroff**, senior VP Holt Renfrew-Ogilvy Montreal; Holt's social media coordinator **Carrie MacPherson** and the always elegant *LouLou* magazine fashion director **Claude Laframboise**.

Prada bags, a sought-after "it" accessory, were sported by **Shuling Yang** – hers was a bright Matisse blue – and **Nataliya Khylenko**, who carried a brown tote.

Tuck Shop canapés and champagne were served by staff in slate-grey Prada-issued uniforms.



Cheryl Besner, left, and Erica Diamond.



Rosemarie Bertrand, left, and Adam Van Vlaardingen.



Natalie Bussière



Dominique Bertrand



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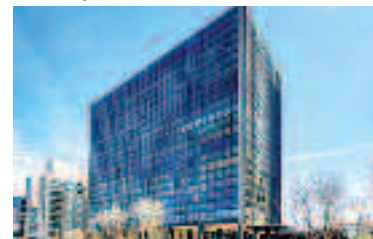
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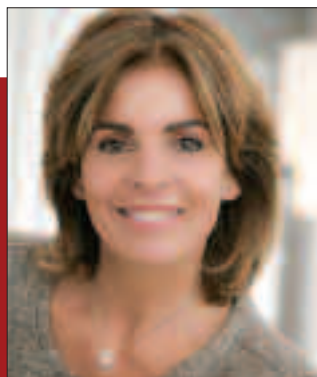
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