

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 9 No. 6a

We are Westmount

June 2, 2015

'Possible' health risk for pregnant women, youngsters 30% of 20 homes tested exceed norms for lead in tap water

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A sampling of drinking water in 20 Westmount households last year showed that six – or 30 percent – tested higher than the acceptable level for lead set by both Quebec and Canada. This is 10 mi-

crograms per litre.

The findings were revealed in minutes of the city council's closed-door committee meeting March 16, 2015. These reported an explanation of a report on the results from Montreal's public health department (DSP) sent to the city in December.

"Any possible health risks affect only pregnant women and children under six," the minutes state. "Nonetheless, the DSP's report advises any resident living in a building likely to have a lead water connection to filter their drinking water."

The water tests were conducted by the city in September and October 2014 as now required by Quebec. They were taken from buildings continued on p. 30



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Letters p. 8

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 33

9 Lives by L. FOWLER p. 30

Bought & Sold by A. DODGE p. 21

Sirens a hit at Family Day



Photo: Ralph Thompson

Ismail Bilodeau, soon to be 5, couldn't resist the temptation to test out the siren in the Westmount Public Security vehicle while officer Stephanie Rodrigues looks on. See Family Day coverage, p. 16-17.

Water/hydro work to kick off revised Prince Albert plan

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The order of work slated for the reconstruction of Prince Albert Ave. between Sherbrooke and Côte St. Antoine this summer has been reversed, according to Public Works officials.

It is now expected to start with the city work – water main relining and new Hy-

dro Westmount installations – likely followed by Bell Canada, which had been expected to lead off the project for 2015 (see story April 28, p. 1).

Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, said he would be announcing the change at the city council meeting June 1, after press time, when the winning continued on p. 28

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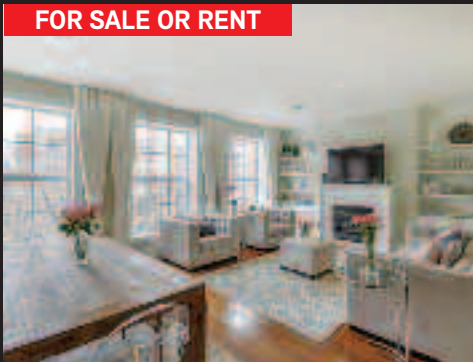
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Residents asked to pick the 'worst' street in city

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

What's your pick of the worst street in Westmount – the bumpiest, “holiest” and most impassable one that's most urgently in need of repair?

That's the question Councillor Patrick Martin as commissioner of Public Works was expected to ask residents at the city council meeting June 1, after press time Monday.

Even though the list of streets the city intends to repave this year has already been announced, Martin told the *Independent* last week he was hoping to hear directly from citizens with their candidate. That's in case the city can find the money and

other resources to add one more street.

“My candidate is St. Sulpice, from Ramezay to Mount Pleasant,” he said, adding: “Terrible!”

Residents can send him their answer at pmartin@westmount.org.

Aside from the complete reconstruction of Prince Albert (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine), which won't be resurfaced until 2016, the following streets are listed for asphalt repaving this summer:

- Montrose (Mountain to Ramezay)
- Shorncliffe
- Metcalfe (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine)
- Bellevue
- St. Catherine (Park Place to Metcalfe).

City still trying to obtain report from MUHC on noise solution

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

There had still been no word from the MUHC regarding the status of a progress report on plans to resolve the issue of noise emissions from the super-hospital's ventilation systems, Mayor Peter Trent said May 28.

“I've been trying to get hold of the report,” he explained. “It was supposed to be ready by now. I'm a little concerned the class action may make it a little more difficult to obtain.”

The city has been trying to resolve the problem directly with MUHC officials by

taking a “diplomatic” route rather than turning to the courts.

But fed up with the delays, a group of residents filed a motion in Quebec Superior Court May 8 seeking authorization to launch a class action suit (see story May 19, p. 1).

The progress report had been expected the week of May 18, District 5 Councillor Christina Smith pointed out. “They didn't meet the deadline, which was already an extended one. At this point, there is no indication what the next step is. It is so discouraging.”

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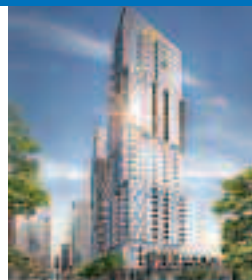


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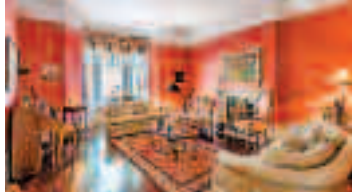
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Carnival on Sat., June 20

Centre Greene to get new roof, gym upgrades this summer

By JOANNE PENHALE

Centre Greene's gym will be getting a makeover this summer, leaving it closed for two months.

"It's been neglected for many, many years," said executive director Wesley McCoy of the gym.

"The city of Westmount has committed to fixing [the gym's] walls," he said. "They've been cracking and separating over the years."

The cinderblock walls will be re-grouted and have structural support added, McCoy said. Westmount will also be resurfacing the roof of the gym and the roof of the centre's third floor.

According to Westmount director general Mike Deegan, the renovations covered by the city total \$129,864 including taxes. Westmount owns the building Centre

Greene occupies.

The community centre is using the gym's closure as an opportunity to resurface its floor, McCoy said. To finance that work, which McCoy said will cost \$45,000, the centre is in the midst of a raffle. The prize draw will happen at the centre's family-oriented, free carnival, which is planned for Saturday, June 20 from 3 to 8 pm. "We have quite a few prizes," McCoy said, including gift cards and items donated from local stores.

Aside from the raffle, McCoy said he is expecting some foundation funding to be announced, plus the centre has some reserves from its on-going fundraising.

The lighting in the gym was also recently updated, McCoy said.

The gym's two-month closure will begin at the end of June.

Trees succumb to disease



Photos courtesy of Patrick Martin

These three dead elms in King George (Murray) Park are slated to come down "shortly," city Horticulture and Arboriculture inspector Jayme Gerbrandt said last week. Photographed May 28 at the southwest corner of the tennis courts near Belmont, the trees have succumbed to Dutch elm disease. "It's truly a shame," said Councillor Patrick Martin, who spotted them. "They are beautiful, majestic trees that have graced the park for decades." Inset photo: Danger tape warns passers-by.



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Prince Albert Square redone

‘Deficiencies’ corrected under contractor’s warranty

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

High-profile work to correct “deficiencies” in the construction of Prince Albert square last fall were carried out last week under the contractor’s five-year warranty, according to Public Works officials.

The work, at no cost to the city, was to in-

stall new concrete sidewalk sections that had cracked over the winter, as well as to re-level granite pavers and refinish certain concrete elements, said Elisa Gaetano, Public Works assistant director for infrastructure and engineering.

Also required was the removal of some debris *continued on p. 10*



Pneumatic drills, picks and shovels were at work May 25 around 8 am at Prince Albert square to correct paving deficiencies before planting can take place.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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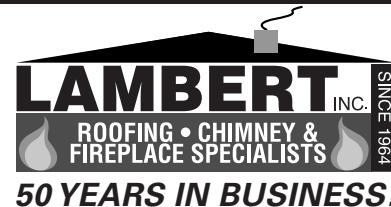
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO HOPE FOR PEDESTRIANS AT ST. C'S INTERSECTIONS

I just want to back up Diana Hernandez's letter ("Open letter to Councillor Philip Cutler," May 26, p. 6), regarding the traffic situation on St. Catherine at Victoria and Lansdowne.

There are two separate issues here: pedestrian safety and traffic congestion.

If you are a pedestrian crossing this intersection, you have to be more than vigilant. Drivers do not stop for you and when they do, they think they are being nice and not simply obeying the law. I've actually had a driver say to me that they had the right of way and not me, a pedestrian.

Cars will turn left two or three at a time off of Victoria onto St. Catherine. It is a very dangerous intersection for all pedestrians, especially those unaware of how to handle this intersection (i.e. it is safer as a pedestrian to cross illegally on a red).

For years, I have been trying to get a pedestrian light installed at Victoria/St. Catherine. Finally in the fall of 2012, I was able to meet with Westmount Public Security and Montreal police to discuss this intersection (I had been trying for six years

for this). We decided that painting a pedestrian crosswalk was the fastest solution as it would take years to get proper street lights. It has helped the situation a tiny bit, but not really.

Part of the problem with the traffic congestion stems from cars parked legally on the south side of St. Catherine and the volume of cars wanting to turn right onto [Glen Rd.]. The street lights at the Lansdowne/St. Catherine intersection are not equipped to deal with the volume of traffic, nor is this particular portion of St. Catherine St.

Something needs to be done to ensure pedestrian safety and a better flow of traffic.

Sadly, the city of Westmount does not seem to be motivated to do anything, even though we have two to three accidents a year at this intersection. I've become convinced over the years that the only way real action will be taken is if a life is lost. What a sad state we, as a community and society, have become if that is the only way we can get our politicians to help ensure our safety.

TONI HAKEM, ST. CATHERINE ST.

JUST PUT BACK DOG RUN WHERE IT USED TO BE

I realize that this letter is after the fact as Westmount city council has already called for tenders for the dog run to be moved, yet again.

It's hard to believe that so much money, time and effort has been spent on this issue with so little common sense involved. Why not just put it back to the lower Lansdowne site where it was originally, pre-Westmount recreation centre construction? That site is green, already treed and it's screened and protected from the pool by two raised earthen berms.

Westmount Park is reaching saturation levels with cyclists, walkers, children and sporting activities, not to mention all the picnicking families on the weekends, so it's not ideal to insert the dog run there.

I walk by the Lansdowne site almost daily and most of the time, it's completely empty. Of all our green spaces, this one is woefully underused. Yes it's a little small, but believe me, all the disgruntled dog owners out there would welcome their old space back again.

Put in a fence, a garbage can and a tap and you could have a cheap dog run within a week. Just saying!

LAURA ROBERTSON, ST. CATHERINE ST.

AM I MISSING SOMETHING RE: DOG PARK LOCATION?

Je vous soumets ma réflexion sur le projet de déplacement de la piste cyclable.

Les géomètres et les piquets de couleurs sont arrivés et ont identifié le déplacement de la piste cyclable. Au coin de Maison-neuve et de Lansdowne, sur un court tronçon, la piste se trouvera quelques mètres plus au nord. Le sentier piétons devra certainement être déplacé aussi. Quelques arbres devront être abattus, dommage!

Si l'objectif est de placer le parc à chiens, je me questionne sur l'optimisation de cette partie du parc de Westmount. La circulation piétons-vélos est plutôt intense à cet endroit alors que l'espace à l'ouest des terrains de tennis (toit des patinoires) semble disponible à peu de frais pour accueillir tout ou partie d'un parc à chiens. Quelque chose m'échappe certainement...

BARBARA ROUBERT, METCALFE AVE.

CROOKED BOLLARDS

I'm glad to see the contractors have been back to fix the cracked pavement at the new Prince Albert [square]. However, no one seems to have noticed that at least three of the bollards are still not vertical.

I suppose that kind of thing is to be expected when you spend a paltry \$397,000* to knock down a wall and pour a bit of concrete. Maybe we should chip in to buy the city a spirit level or a plumb line.

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

* Editor's note: The \$397,000 included the entire street reconstruction of Prince Albert Ave. from Somerville north not only creation of the square (see story p. 7). – KM

WESTMOUNT PARK'S RED PINE & COPPED TREES

I have always been intrigued with the conifer next to Westmount Park's gazebo that has four trunks. The tree's long, slender needles (attached in bundles) make it a pine.

One can tell it is a red pine (*pinus resinosa*) by its reddish-brown bark in armour-like plates, the needles being attached in bundles of two, and interestingly, their ability to break if one wraps them around a finger!

The species is commonly known as Norway pine – although it never grew in Norway and is native to North America.

The four trunks are an interesting story. This is commonly known as coppicing (from French *couper*). It is the ability of a tree, if damaged, to regenerate from a stump ("main stool").

One can only speculate that either severe weather or insect damage caused the park's red pine to lose its main trunk. (The thick bark is resistant to surface fires of moderate intensity.)

Coppicing produces a *continued on p. 30*



Red pine in Westmount Park. Photo courtesy of Michael Walsh

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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.

Park improvements coming

Councillor's Column

CYNTHIA LULHAM

I am writing in response to recent letters regarding the state of Westmount Park and King George (Murray) Park. These parks, along with Stayner and Prince Albert, are indeed in need of improved maintenance, equipment repairs or replacement, replanting of many shrubs and hedges, and reseeding or sodding of grass areas. We have a total of 123 acres (50 hectares) of public green spaces and parks that are all being increasingly used. The wear and tear is showing!

The good news is that the need to invest in improved park maintenance and to renew infrastructure was discussed at the council budget planning meeting, and it was agreed to increase the funding for parks.

From the mayor's letter of January 28, 2015: "the 2015 budget increases taxes by 2 percent. One quarter of that amount (0.5 percent) has been earmarked for an extra boost for capital investments for roads and parks. We plan to increase this to 1 percent next year and continue stepwise until we reach 2.5 percent."

There have been recent discussions among members of council with regard to further increasing this funding through surplus, and will be outlined in a mayor's letter to all residents.

I would be the first to agree with Mr. Stubbs ("Dedicated caregivers needed for park," May 19, p. 6) that the current method of contracting out the park maintenance needs to change. We spend too much time supervising and chasing after the contractors. The results of their poor performance were visible in the state of the flower beds, planters and hanging baskets throughout the city last year. We have two years (this year and next) left on this contract; the company has been advised through meetings and letters, of our dissatisfaction with their services. Further steps will be taken if the situation continues.

The past use of students for park maintenance required a lot of supervision and sometimes caused damage due to poor use of equipment. The administration is looking to create new positions this summer that would again use students in the parks, but with a more defined role and function to improve daily maintenance and cleanliness.

Last year, we added the new position of arborist. Trees are an important element in our parks and streetscapes, and the arrival of the ash borer will further impact our urban trees. This year, we are adding a new position to assist our horticulturist in the planning, supervision and implementation of planting beds and shrubs throughout the city.

These new positions will also enable the city staff to better manage all the capital works projects slated for this year. These projects include: the installation of a new splash pad in Prince Albert Park; the planting of Prince Albert square (week of June 8); replacement of playground equipment throughout Westmount; the new landscaping of the public space in front of the conservatory; Summit Circle Rd. closure and plans; Summit Woods inventory and removal of invasive species; and the implementation of landscaping and beautification of the area around the Belvedere Rd. municipal storage area.

Earlier this month three employees, Jayme Gerbrandt (horticulturist), Todd Seguin (parks superintendent) and Dan Giroux (parks), attended the Canadian Playground Safety Institute certification training on playground equipment. This training will be used in the new selection of playground equipment and the regular maintenance of the existing ones.

I attended the Greater and Greener Conference on Parks in April, where I hiked many trails to see what others are doing for trail materials, way-finding signs, and controlling erosion. I also attended workshops on playground equipment, parkettes and urban community gardens, all in all, a really great learning experience. I brought back lots of information materials to share and new ideas for the Summit Woods trails refurbishing.

As I write, the beds are being weeded and planted in Westmount Park in preparation for Family Day. The very harsh and long winter delayed the spring clean-up, but our Public Works crew has done a great job and the park looks much better. The grass seeding and any sodding will take place after Family Day so it will not all be trod on!

In conclusion, I want to assure Westmount residents that council and the administration are dedicated to returning our parks and green spaces to the quality and beauty that have defined our community. Thank you to those who have taken the time to write their concerns. Your input is always welcome.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham,
commissioner of Environment and Parks.

Goal to retain home delivery

City to approve \$5,000 legal fee to fight Canada Post

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's announced plan to join the legal fight against Canada Post to retain home delivery was expected to translate into official action at the council meeting June 1, after press time Monday.

"We will approve \$5,000 for the joint legal action as part of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) along with Montreal, Laval and Longueuil," Mayor Peter Trent said last week. The group will be represented by the law firm Bélanger Sauv .

He confirmed it would be joining the common front of legal action – a constitutional challenge – across Canada. This was launched last year by the union representing postal employees in an effort to prevent replacing home postal delivery by community mailboxes.

Westmount's decision to turn to the courts was initially announced by Trent February 26. It was reinforced at a joint news conference May 14 by Montreal, Laval and Longueuil and the ASM, of which Trent is the president (see story May 19, p. 3).



Photographed May 29, a front window of Westmount mayor Peter Trent's house shows the household's position on the Canada Post issue.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Prince Albert's square's deficiencies addressed

.....
cont'd. from p. 7

that had fallen into an electrical conduit obstructing the lighting for the new bollards. But that was described as “very minor.”

“It’s a shame,” said Public Works director Patrick Raggo of the redo. “We would like it to be done right the first time.”

The city expects “a certain level of performance for which there are warranties and penalties.” The penalty involves the corrective work. “The contractor certainly doesn’t want to be back here again and held up because he has to fix it.”

While the work was expected to be completed at the end of last week, it was weather dependent because it involved the pouring of concrete. The planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetation will follow.

“We considered waiting until the fall to do the work but that put the new plantings

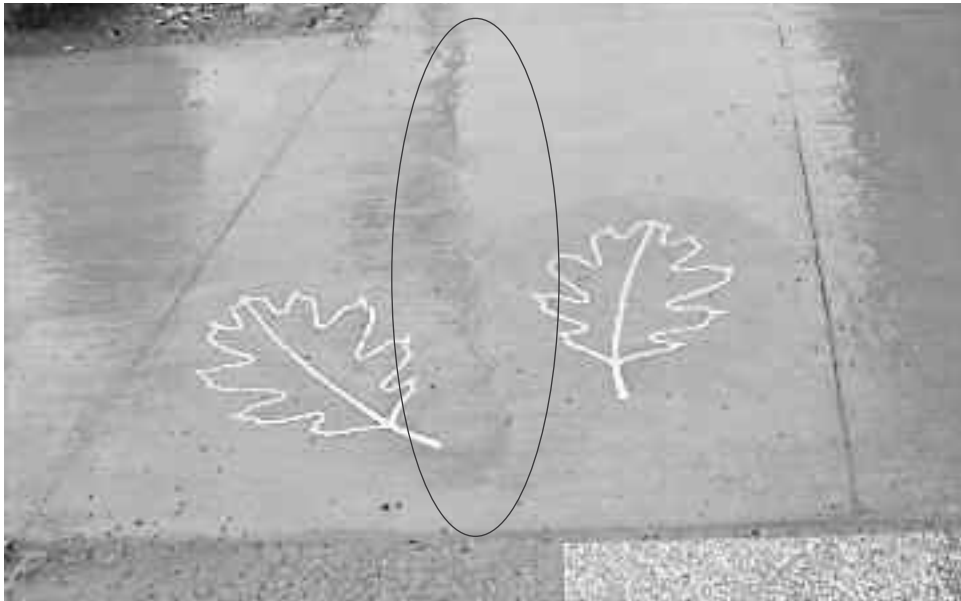
at risk,” Gaetano explained.

The corrective work was being done by Construction Irebec, which had submitted the lowest bid for the job of six contractors by at least \$100,000. It was awarded September 2 for a net amount of \$396,740. This included refurbishing Prince Albert square and reconstructing Prince Albert Ave. between Somerville and Sherbrooke (see story September 9, p. 9).

Sunnyside, St. Catherine also cracked

Cracks were also discovered after the harsh winter in the repaving last year of Sunnyside between Upper Bellevue and Lexington and of St. Catherine, where the sidewalks had been entirely reconstructed last November between Park Place and Lansdowne (see November 25, p. 7).

Site meetings were being planned by Public Works with Sintra Inc. the contractor for both projects.



Melting snow as shown in this photo April 9 reveals a number of cracks among other paving problems at the new Prince Albert square. One crack runs between the oak leaves.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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WESTMOUNT



APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS : WRC-2015-001 CAFÉ / CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

La Ville de Westmount sollicite des propositions concernant l’exploitation d’un café dans le nouveau Centre des loisirs de Westmount (CLW) au 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, et ce, pour une période initiale de trois (3) années, négociable.

Les documents relatifs à l’appel de propositions seront disponibles à partir du 2 juin 2015 et jusqu’à la date d’ouverture des propositions sur le site Web de la Ville au www.westmount.org ou au bureau du greffe de la Ville de Westmount, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, pendant les heures d’ouverture, soit du lundi au jeudi de 8 h 00 à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h 00 à 13 h 00.

Les documents d’appel de propositions mentionnent toutes les exigences et tous les critères qui seront utilisés pour évaluer les propositions, notamment le pointage intérimaire minimal de 70, ainsi que les méthodes de pondération et d’évaluation des propositions fondées sur ces critères.

Une proposition doit être transmise dans une enveloppe contenant une première enveloppe avec tous les documents de la proposition et une deuxième enveloppe, scellée, contenant le loyer proposé.

Seules les propositions déposées au bureau du greffe au plus tard, **le 18 juin 2015 à 12 h 00** seront acceptées.

Les propositions seront ouvertes publiquement dans la salle du conseil de la Ville de Westmount, le même jour, à 12 h 05. Subséquemment, un comité de sélection étudiera les propositions.

La Ville de Westmount ne s’engage à accepter ni la meilleure ni aucune des propositions reçues, et n’encourra aucune obligation ni aucun frais d’aucune sorte envers les soumissionnaires.

M^e Nicole Dobbie
Greffière adjointe de la Ville

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: WRC-2015-001 CAFÉ / WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

The City of Westmount solicits proposals for the operation of a café in the new Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) at 4675, Sainte-Catherine Street West for an initial term of three (3) years, negotiable.

The documents regarding the call for proposals may be obtained as of June 2nd, 2015 and up until the date of the opening of proposals on the City’s website at www.westmount.org or at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Westmount located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, during regular business hours from Monday to Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The specifications mention all the requirements and all the criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals, in particular the minimum interim score of 70, and the bid weighting and evaluating methods based on those criteria.

The proposal is to be submitted in an envelope containing a first envelope with all the documents of the proposal and a second, sealed envelope, containing the proposed rent.

Only the proposals received at the Office of the City Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. on June 18th, 2015**, at the latest, will be accepted.

The proposals will be opened publicly in the Council Chamber of the City of Westmount on the same day at 12:05 p.m. Subsequently, a selection committee will study the proposals.

The best or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted, nor shall the City of Westmount incur any obligations or costs whatsoever with respect to the person making the proposal.

M^e Nicole Dobbie
Assistant City Clerk

Pool opens June 1 on pre-summer schedule

Parents continue to seek roped-off space during adult swim times

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just as the city's pool was to open June 1 for the summer, a contingent of residents renewed last year's pleas to the city to relax some of the pool regulations regarding the presence of children during "adult lap swims."

The concerned residents were expected to ask city council that night, after press time, to adopt a more "family-friendly" model used at some neighbouring pools. This is to rope off special lanes for adults, which enables the kids to remain in the water, on the deck and in changing rooms.

"It's a community pool, not a private place," said Angela Lehrer, a mother of three, May 28. Lehrer spearheaded a petition of close to 250 names on the same issue last year.

Traditionally in Westmount, children must leave all areas during the three adult swims – 7 to 8 am, noon to 1 pm and 6 to 7 pm.

Changes were made last August allowing the "splash pad" for ages 6 and under to be kept open during the noon-hour time.

It's the 6-to-7 pm adult swim that is of particular concern to Lehrer. It's the time of day before supper and bedtime routines when many parents are available to go to the pool with their children, she explained.

But to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe, "this is the only time the adults can have peace and quiet to do their laps. To me, it's fair. It's suppertime for the kids. They can come back at 7."

The same arguments had been raised at the old pool, he recalled, noting the adult swimming community was also very vocal on the subject. "No matter what we do, we're going to get complaints."

If some adults want peace and quiet without children, which Lehrer said she could understand, "then we recommend that adult swim be moved to a later hour in the evening when the children won't be there. We can accept that."

She also reiterated a previous request to rope off the pool over the noon-hour adult swim to allow the kids into the pool since it is used for swimming lessons all morning.



The Westmount pool on May 31, looking towards St. Catherine St. A meeting for lifeguards was being held (see bottom left), prior to opening the next day. The Sports and Recreation department confirmed June 1 that the pool was open as of 7 am that morning.

Photo: Independent

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Police Report

Woman grabbed mid-morning, car broken into

BY MICHAEL MOORE

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

A 29-year-old woman allegedly fought off an assailant who had grabbed her from behind in broad daylight as she was walking along Sherbrooke on May 13, according to a police report.

At approximately 10 am, the victim was walking alone as she approached the corner of Melville when the assailant, described only as a French-speaking black male with short black hair and an unshaven beard and moustache, reportedly grabbed her from behind.

As she attempted to break free, the woman told police she accidentally scratched herself in the face with her own watch before the man fled.

According to Station 12 constable Stephan Laperriere, the woman waited an hour and a half before soliciting help or calling police to report the incident, and no witnesses or video surveillance cameras saw the incident.

Laperriere considered it odd that such an attack would occur “out of nowhere” on a well-populated street in the middle of the day. The suspect didn’t attempt to steal

the woman’s purse or other valuables, and police still consider his motive to be “unclear,” according to Laperriere.

“We’re asking anybody who may have been around that area on the 13th at that time to come forward,” he said.

Victim pursues car break-in suspect through Westmount

An early-morning car break-in attempt on Lewis Ave. near St. Catherine led to a foot chase through Westmount’s back alleys and yards between the victim and suspect on May 22, according to a police report.

Just before 7 am, the victim exited his home and had begun walking to his car when he spotted suspect sitting in the front passenger seat, rifling through the glove compartment. Using the car’s remote control, the victim attempted to lock the suspect, described as a 30-year-old unshaven white man with a tattoo on his neck and hand, inside the vehicle.

However, the audible and distinctive sound of the locking mechanism sent the suspect into a panic, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel. He began to frantically search for a way out, eventually managing to unlock the door and take off running.

Though the manoeuvre managed to send the spooked suspect fleeing, Pimentel cautioned that the locking attempt could easily have resulted in a far worse outcome for the victim had it led a physical altercation.

“[Locking the doors] is not something I would recommend,” he said. “There are a lot of factors that you just don’t know

Suspect attempts to enter cars on Victoria May 26



Winchester and Claremont looking east on May 26 at around 9:30 am. Police were also blocking Burton and Somerville.
Photo: Independent

Police officers set up a perimeter in Victoria village below Sherbrooke on the morning of May 26 as they searched for a man accused of hitting parked cars in the area. According to a Station 12 report, a squad car responding to a call from a resident spotted the suspect, described only as a black male wearing a black jacket and or-

ange gloves, as he was walking along Victoria in the opposite direction. As the police car made a U-turn to begin pursuit, the suspect allegedly ran into a backyard and began jumping over fences to elude the officers. The suspect was not apprehended and there was no major damage inflicted on any of the cars.

– MM

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about. The last thing you want is an escalation from a break-in on a car to an aggravated assault because you wanted to manhandle the suspect.”

As the suspect fled, the victim began to give chase, pursuing him down Lewis, west towards Irvine and back north towards St. Catherine. The suspect finally managed to elude his pursuer by jumping over a fence, after which the victim called 911 to report the incident.

While police often encourage victims to follow suspects from a safe distance, en-

gaging in a one-versus-one foot chase, particularly through confined spaces like alleys, can quickly turn into a potentially perilous altercation if the suspect is armed, said Pimentel.

“Our officers are trained to deal with these types of situations and are equipped to handle them, and we still use at least a two-person squad car. There’s safety in numbers,” he explained.

No items were taken and there was no damage to the car, according to the report.

Leaf-blowers out-of-season till fall

A ticket for \$270 was issued May 20 to a contractor using a leaf blower at 171 Edgehill, Public Security officials said. An extension for the use of the devices during spring clean-up expired May 9. The patroller came across the incident at 8:05 am. “We’re getting lots of calls over the noise from leaf blowers,” explained Public Security director Greg McBain.

Fire doused in container on Forden

Firefighters were called May 24 to extinguish a fire in a construction container at 55 Forden Ave., Public Security officials said. Patrollers came across the incident at 5:36 am while smoke was still issuing from the debris. Firefighters had to break a chain on the security gate of the worksite fencing to gain entry. An employee who arrived at the worksite at 6:30 am was informed.

Bringing back social dance



Photo: Matt Faigan

Dancers Laura Malbogat, left, and Roger LaPlante enjoy a night of music, dancing and socializing at the inaugural Westmount "Let's Dance" party May 23 at Victoria Hall. According to community events and logistics agent Jillian Barnes, the event aims to bring back the social dances that were, years ago, hosted at Victoria Hall every Saturday. It was organized by residents Liz McCallum, Sada Reddy, councillors Nicole Forbes and Rosalind Davis, and Barnes. Some 55 attended.



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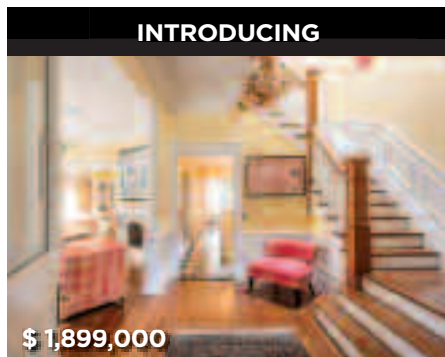
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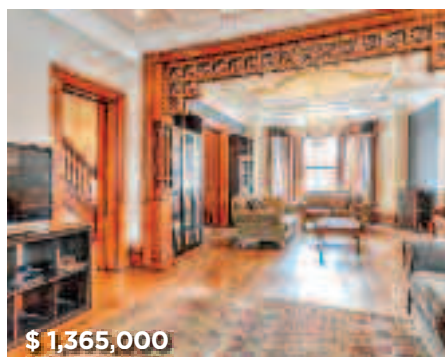
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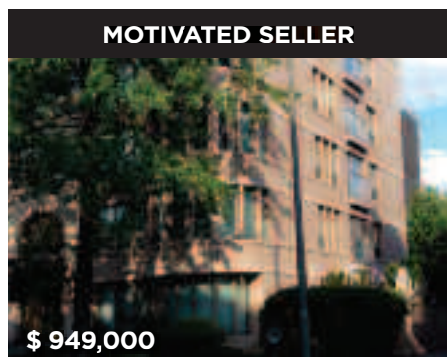
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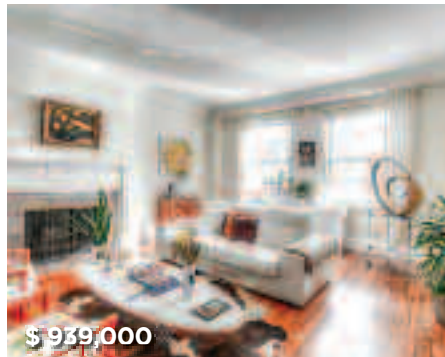
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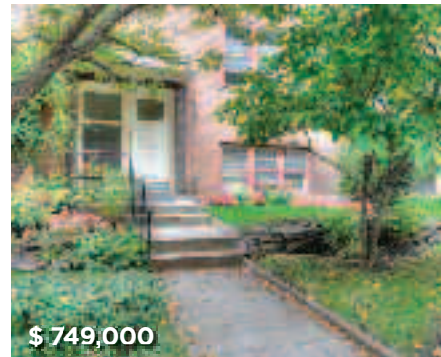
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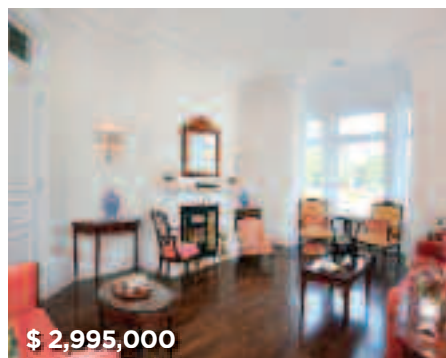
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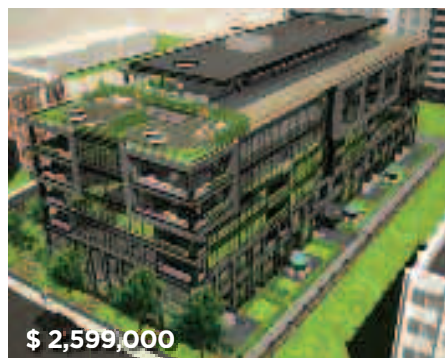
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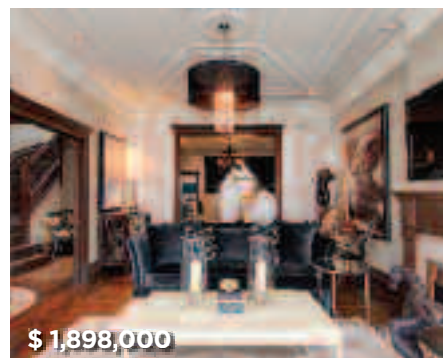
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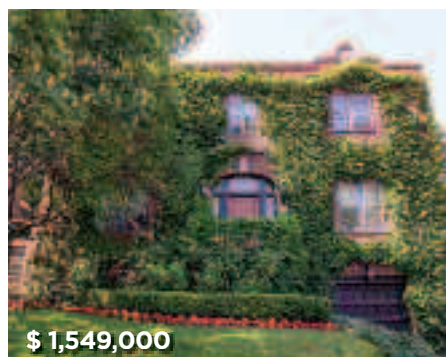
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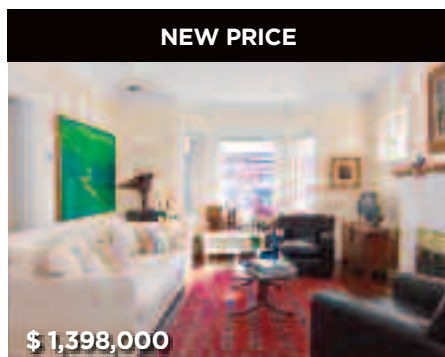
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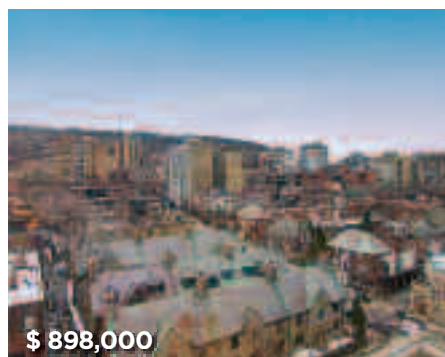
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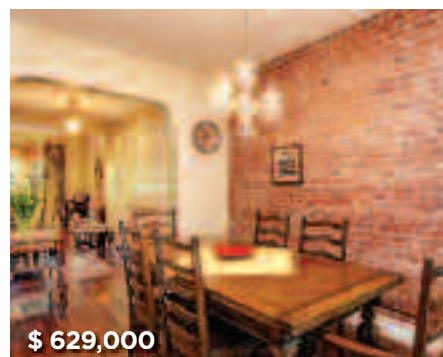
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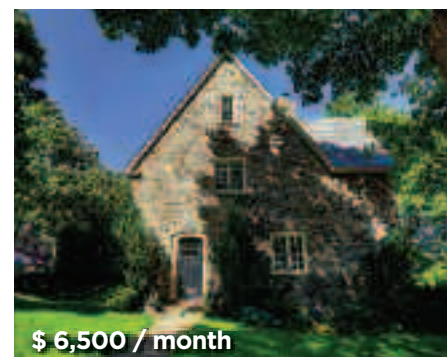
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*Source CENTRIS® - Carl R-Fontaine was either listing and/or selling broker, all condo sales, in Nuns' Island and Old Montreal, between January 1st 2014 & February 11 2015.

**Source CENTRIS® - Carl R-Fontaine was either listing and/or selling broker, condo sales of \$700 000 and +, in Nuns' Island, between January 1st 2014 & January 26th 2015. - Profusion Realty inc - Real Estate Agency.

Profusion Realty Inc. • Real Estate Agency

People come out for a hot, muggy Family

By RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount’s 40th annual Family Day took over Westmount Park May 30 between 10 am and 4 pm. The threat of heavy rain didn’t seem to deter the many who showed up. Despite the temperature in the mid 20s and the humidity at 75 percent, enthusiasm was rampant among the kids and city employees working at the event.

By 11 am, the grounds were crowded

with excited kids and and adults. Long line-ups snaked across the soccer field for the pony rides and the bungee trampoline.

Blue cotton candy on sticks and roasted marshmallows on dry-cleaner coat hangers were being devoured along with popular hamburgers and anniversary cake.

Disco music rocked the park, and police sirens wailed when children were allowed to set them off.



Jaida, 6, has fun on the bungee trampoline.



Thirteen-year-olds Dalhia Kahn, left, and Victoria Lande were in charge of guarding the celebratory cake.

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The competition was fierce in the dash, egg-and-spoon and sack races.

Day, the event's 40th



Amaya Etoundi, two and a half, was just taking it all in.



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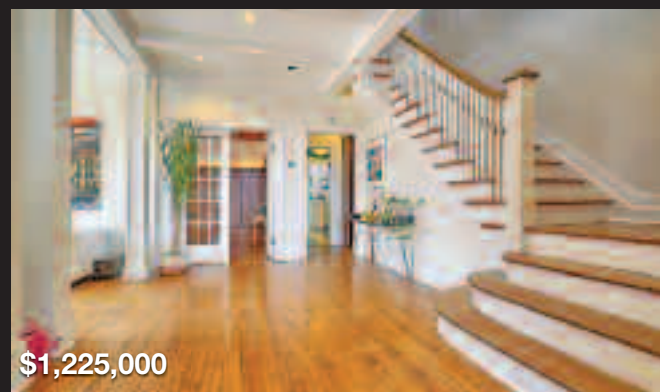
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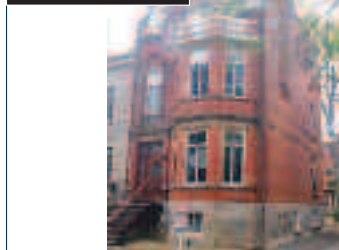
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LANSDOWNE RIDGE,
WESTMOUNT **\$2,695,000**



CÔTE ST-ANTOINE,
WESTMOUNT **\$2,495,000**



DES PINS,
GOLDEN SQ. MILE **\$1,675,000**



FORDEN CR.,
WESTMOUNT **\$1,595,000**



RENFREW,
WESTMOUNT **\$1,445,000**



GROSVENOR,
WESTMOUNT **\$1,295,000**



MIRA,
WSTMT ADJ. **\$1,149,000**



QUEEN MARY,
HAMPSTEAD **\$1,135,000**



CLAREMONT,
WESTMOUNT **\$995,000**



, EARLE,
CÔTE-ST-LUC **\$799,000**



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\$8,900,000



SOLD

FORDEN CR.,
WESTMOUNT **\$5,799,999**



SOLD

RAMEZAY,
WESTMOUNT **\$4,495,000**



SOLD IN 42 DAYS

BEACONSFIELD BOUL.,
BEACONSFIELD **\$3,885,000**



SOLD

“SIR ROBERT PEEL”,
DOWNTOWN **\$3,495,000**



SOLD

JEAN GIRARD,
WSTMT ADJ. **\$1,595,000**



SOLD BY M.Y. PAINT

REDPATH,
GOLDEN SQ. MILE **\$1,395,000**



SOLD

DE MAISONNEUVE,
WESTMOUNT **\$1,049,000**



SOLD IN 15 DAYS

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DOWNTOWN **\$798,000**

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4340 WESTMOUNT AVENUE

\$1,275,000 | MLS 16253924
Sunny 4 bdrm home filled
w/woodwork, garage, a/c++

ATWATER MARKET



100 VINET ST. APT. 302

\$449,000 | MLS 17571292
Turn-key 2 bdrm w/ central air,
garage and courtyard views!

LITTLE ITALY



ST. DOMINIQUE

\$319,000 | MLS 16432413
JUST LISTED! Fabulous 2 bdrm co-prop
totally gutted and redone A-Z w/taste!

WESTMOUNT ADJ.



4785 VICTORIA AVE.

\$845,000 | MLS 27842655
Large duplex with DOUBLE OCCU-
PANCY & Tremendous POTENTIAL!

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!

WESTMOUNT



PLACE OLIVIER

\$1495/Mo. | MLS 17639066
Sunny 1,200 sq.ft. renovated
2 bdrm apt. 6th flr. July.

HAMPSTEAD



DUFFERIN

\$599,000 | MLS 19281175
Sunny semi starter w/approved
plans to double in size!

ATWATER MARKET



2678 SAINTE CUNEGONDE

\$399,000 | MLS 9761919
LOCATION! Renovated 2 bdrm condo
w/2 balconies, a/c, gas fp, garage, locker!

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\$599,000 | MLS 16842315
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w/bachelor, a/c, fp & steps to metro/village!

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3445 RIDGEWOOD

\$350,000 | MLS 16396830
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bdrm, 2 bath w/central air & garage!

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6267-69 30TH AVE

\$549,000 | MLS 11616719
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in January, February 2015

For list of transfers, please see paper copy.

For Andy Dodge's analysis, see p. 25.



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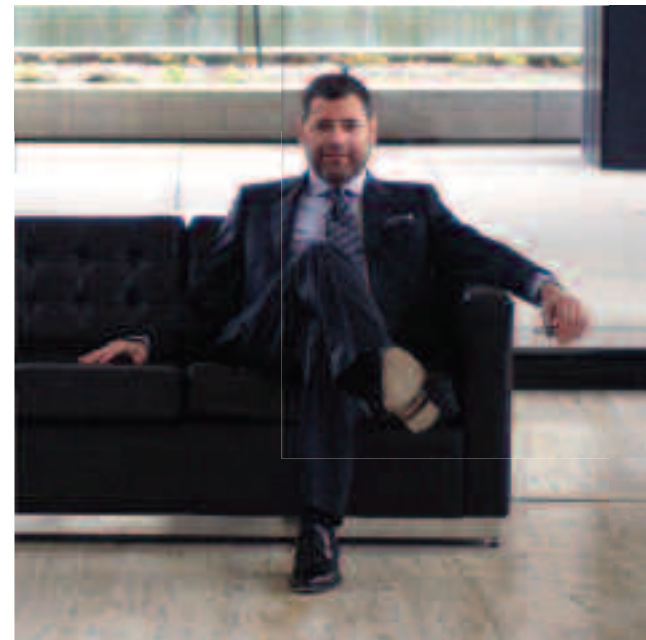
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Left page: (left) 120 Keeler, Hatley \$2,445,000 – (top right) 445 Viger, unit 1106, International District \$899,000 – (bottom left) 1559 Dr Penfield Ave, Golden Square Mile \$ 2,998,000 – (bottom right) 24 Forden Ave, Westmount \$2,385,000. **Right page:** (top left) 1 Chelsea Place, Golden Square Mile \$ 2,800,000 – (top right) 133 Stanislas Crescent, Eastern Townships \$ 3,495,000 – (bottom) 3 Westmount Square, unit 1112, Westmount \$1,195,000.

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2015.06.02 • Vol. 3/11
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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Horaires estivaux en vigueur à compter du 1^{er} juin dans les bureaux de la Ville
Entre le 1^{er} juin et le 4 septembre 2015, les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront ouverts du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h. La bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les dimanches au cours des mois de juillet et août.

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.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscription: activités automne et hiver N.B. : NOUVELLE DATE D'INSCRIPTION
À compter du lundi 8 juin à 9 h en personne au CLW ou en ligne. Visitez le westmount.org pour consulter les activités de loisirs automne/hiver 2015-2016. Le répertoire sera distribué dans tous les foyers sous peu. Info : 514 989-5353.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture d'été TD 2015
À compter du 8 juin. Le thème cet été encourage le JEU! Demandez votre trousse de lecture d'été au comptoir des enfants – 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.

Club de cinéma : Pride
Le vendredi 5 juin, 14 h. Le film *Pride* du réalisateur Matthew Warchus. Info : 514 989-5299.

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 d'Oleg! Des dessins seront choisis pour être exposés dans la Galerie d'art Feérie à Westmount. 7 ans et plus. Info : 514 989-5229.

Lecture à la mémoire de Paul Almond
Le mercredi 10 juin, 19 h. Venez célébrer la publication du huitième tome de l'œuvre qui faisait la

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 6 juillet

fierté de Paul Almond, la collection *Alford Saga*. Ces ouvrages racontent l'histoire de sa famille sur quatre générations. Ses amis intimes Barbara Burgess & Jay Iverson parleront de Paul Almond et discuteront de son dernier livre, *The Inheritor*. Info : 514 989-5299.

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.

Cercle de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 16 juin, 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5299.

Bloomsday 2015
Le mardi 16 juin de 11 h à 15 h. Salle Westmount. Des lectures dramatiques du livre à l'origine de cet événement - *Ulysses* de James Joyce - avec des lectures en anglais, français, italien et irlandais. Info : 514 989-5386.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

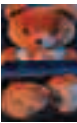
Exposition jeunesse au Victoria Hall
Du 22 mai au 12 juin. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition jeunesse annuelle, un projet d'art communautaire organisé par le Centre des arts visuels, parrainé par la Ville de Westmount et réalisé en collaboration avec le Concours d'écriture littéraire McEntyre. Info : victoriahall@westmount.org ou 514 989-5521.

Fête de la St-Jean au parc Westmount
Le mardi 23 juin à compter de 17 h 30. Bricolage, maquillage, jeux et activités, pique-nique, BBQ, barbe à papa, concert, gâteau de la St Jean et feu de joie ! Info : 514 989-5226.

Fête du Canada « Splash Bash »
Le mercredi 1^{er} juillet ; BBQ à midi, « Splash Bash » à compter de 14 h, Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Célébrez le 148^e anniversaire de notre pays avec un dîner BBQ et « Splash Bash » à la piscine. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Sièges d'auto pour enfants : vérification
Les petits-enfants sont en visite? Votre famille s'agrandit ? Appelez l'équipe de la Sécurité publique de Westmount et prenez rendez-vous pour faire installer ou vérifier vos sièges d'auto pour enfants. Service gratuit. Info : 514 989-5222.



CITY HALL

Summer schedule in effect beginning June 1st for the City's offices

Between June 1st and September 4th, 2015, Westmount's administrative offices will be open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Westmount Public Library will be closed on Sundays during July and August.

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.

Westmount on Facebook and Twitter
Follow us at twitter.com/VilleWestmount and www.facebook.com/villedewestmount.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration: fall & winter activities PLEASE NOTE NEW REGISTRATION DATE
Beginning June 8 at 9 a.m. in person at the WRC or online. Visit www.westmount.org now and find out about the recreation activities offered for the fall and winter 2015-2016. The guide will be delivered to all households soon. Info : 514 989-5353.

LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club 2015
Begins June 8. This year's theme focuses on PLAY! Ask for your Summer Reading Club Kit at the Children's Desk - 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.

Film Club : Pride
Friday, June 5, 2 p.m. See the film *Pride*, directed by Matthew Warchus. Info: 514 989-5299.

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.

Reading in memory of Paul Almond
Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Come celebrate book 8 of Paul Almond's pride and joy, his multi-volume *Alford Saga* of 4 generations of his family. Close Montreal friends Barbara Burgess and Jay Iverson will talk about Paul Almond and discuss his last book, *The Inheritor*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting Monday, July 6

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.

Readers to Readers Book Club
Tuesday, June 16 at 10:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

Bloomsday 2015
Tuesday, June 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Westmount Room. Dramatic readings from the book that started it all – *Ulysses* by James Joyce - with readings in English, French, Italian, and Irish. Info : 514 989-5386.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Youth Art Exhibition at Victoria Hall
May 22 to June 12, 2015. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the annual youth exhibition, a community art project organized by the Visual Arts Centre, sponsored by the City of Westmount and presented in collaboration with the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Fête de la St-Jean in Westmount Park
Tuesday June 23 starting at 5:30 p.m. Crafts, face painting, games & activities, picnic time, Scout BBQ & cotton candy, concert, St-Jean cake for all and a bonfire! Info: 514 989-5226.

Canada Day Splash Bash
Wednesday July 1st ; BBQ from noon and Splash Bash at 2 p.m., WRC. Celebrate our country's 148th birthday with a BBQ lunch and Splash Bash at the Pool. Info: 514 932-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Children's car seats : have them inspected
Grandchildren in town for summer vacation? Expecting an addition to the family? Make an appointment with Westmount's Public Safety team to have your child seat installed or verified by trained personnel. This service is free. Info: 514 989-5222.



January-February transfers: Highs and lows

Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA



475 Roslyn Ave., which sold in January for \$1,650,000, was the biggest mark-down from municipal evaluation at 42 percent.

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in January and February 2015, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 21.

Two sales over \$3 million, one each in January and February, highlighted the Westmount real estate transfers in the first two months of this year, with weak prices in January contrasting to strong ones in February.

Three of the five residential sales in January were actually below evaluation, led off by the sale of 475 Roslyn Ave. from the estate of Marjorie (Schechter) Bronfman for a paltry \$1,650,000, even though the city had it valued at \$2,850,000. Originally the property included two lots to the south of the main building, which were sold off separately last year for \$1,000,000 and \$1,150,000. One of the two is now being developed. Meanwhile, the main house has been relisted for the last month and is now asking \$2,399,000.

The highest price in January involved another big Westmount house at 65 Forden Ave., corner Westmount Ave., which had been on the market for just over two years and finally brought its owners just under \$4 million while evaluated – along with the adjacent land, which basically formed the yard for the house – at \$4,299,700. Thus, despite a hefty mark-up for 529 Lansdowne Ave., the three houses, one duplex and one triplex (which also sold below valuation), which changed hands in January, averaged 13 percent below city value.

Then in February, six homes all sold above valuation, averaging 19 percent above their deemed value, the highest monthly average since the 2014 valuation roll came into force last year. Among the sale prices was \$3,125,000 for the large

mansion at 3255 Cedar Ave., 13 percent above municipal evaluation. That house had been bought by renovators in April 2011 for \$1,750,000 and then was sold, fully renovated in June 2012, for \$2,750,000.

The highest mark-up in the month involved 687 Grosvenor Ave., which brought \$1,800,000 while evaluated at only \$1,207,900. It is one of the semi-detached houses above The Boulevard, renovated after its previous sale in 2005 for \$725,000.

The February sales also included three for less than \$1 million, with 541 Lansdowne Ave. drawing the lowest price at \$848,000. One of the other sales involved 53 Chesterfield Ave., whose two buyers signed separate deeds, each for \$462,500 and each involving 50 percent of the property.

Two condominium sales were recorded in January and two more in February, one high price and one low price in each

month. Highest of the four, in January, was another apartment at 1250 Greene Ave., whose \$1,279,818 price is actually among the lowest-priced apartments in the building, which has seen prices above \$4,500,000 even before federal and provincial taxes are added.

The lowest price, also in January, involved an apartment at 4215 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Again, three of the four condos went below the 2014 valuation, with the biggest mark-down – 18 percent – for an eighth-floor apartment at Château



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Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine St.

We are coming up to the time when the level of Westmount sales will determine the fate of the next municipal valuation roll, which will be based on market conditions of July 2015. So far, if the first two months are any indication of the market for the year, there may not be much change in valuations when the next roll is established for 2017-18-19.



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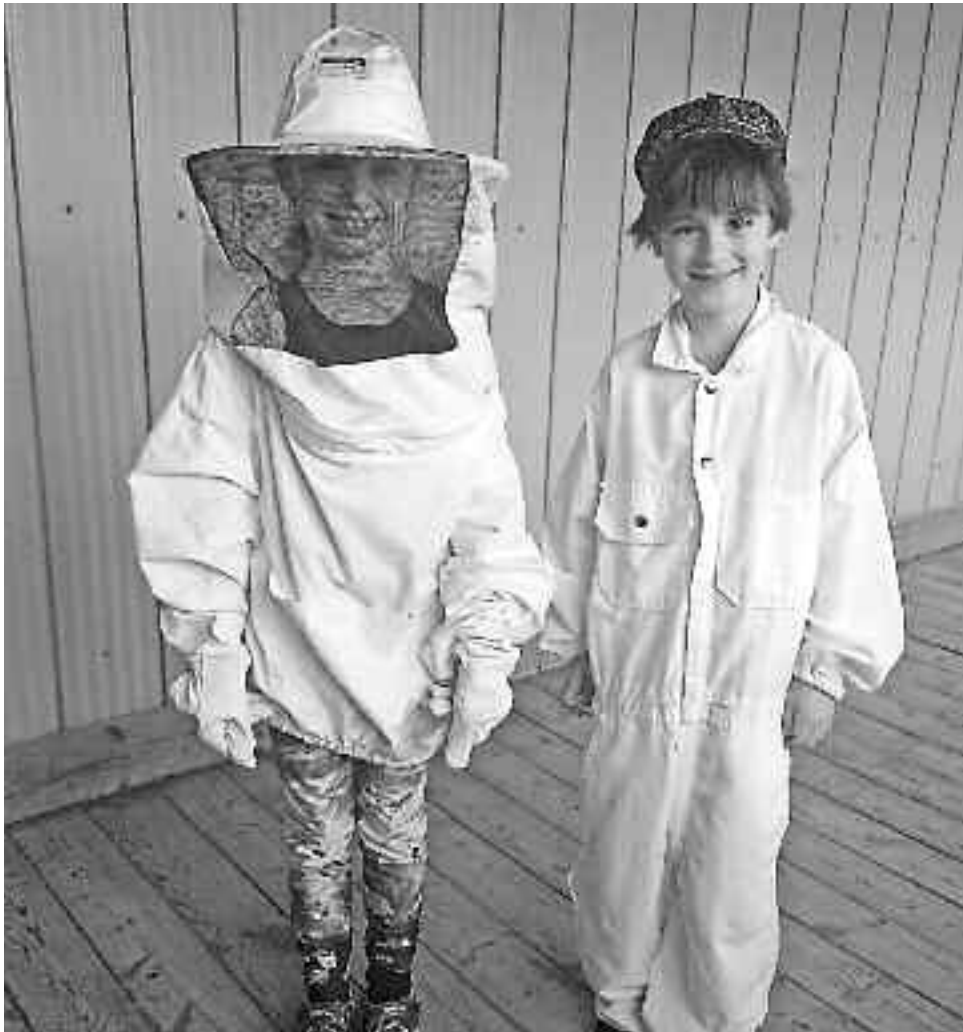
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Visiting the bees



Akiva students Noemi Fudem, left, and Jacob Bukhman suit up in protective gear May 26 to see bees in action and learn more about beehives. The grade 1 classes visited Intermiel bee farms in Mirabel the week of May 25 to learn about how honey is made and how bees play an integral role in agricultural cycles.

Photo courtesy of Akiva School

Exhibition took place in little-known gallery on Westmount's south side

By Heather Black

An exhibition of drawing and paintings by Montreal artists was on between May 23 and 30 at the Galerie RCA at the south-western edge of Westmount on the St. Henri border.

Entitled "2015 Art Not Forgotten," the exhibition featured and commemorated the work of 28 deceased artists including Louis Muhlstock, Ernst Neumann and

Herman Heimlich.

Artist and art educator Deena Dlusy-Apel, who curated the exhibition, painted alongside some of the featured artists including Lawrence Cohen, Gloria Miloff and Abe Peters. She noted in particular how wonderful it was to watch Sheila Heimlich create her watercolour paintings, several of which are for sale.

The gallery is located in suite E-206 of the RCA building, 1001 Lenoir St.



Curator Deena Dlusy-Apel May 23 at the "2015 Art Not Forgotten" opening May 23 at the Galerie RCA. She stands next to a painting by Lawrence Cohen.

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Wayward dog owner ticketed in WAG

A Westmount resident was ticketed \$76 for walking her dog off leash in the Westmount Athletic Grounds May 23, according to Public Security officials. The loose dog was spotted at 10:48 am.

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Comin' Up

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Westmount Horticultural Society's monthly Meeting at Westmount Public Library, 7 pm on "fragrant gardening," presented by Julie Boudreau. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$5. Info: 514.932.9349.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

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brations start with a walk leaving Dawson College at 8 am, ending at the hospital site at 1001 Decarie Blvd. Ribbon-cutting ceremony and performances from Sam Roberts Band and Stéphanie Lapointe, which can be attended by "Walk for Montreal" participants. Registration: \$5 at walk-formtl.ca. Info: 514.934.1934, ext. 23622.



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Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

1913 Nobbs house revived 100 years later

By Doreen Lindsay

Michael Blinderman and his wife Marina have owned the Nobbs house at 38 Belvedere Rd. for only five years. In that time they have restored the house to its original plan with accommodation for their daily family living. They contacted local architect Julia Gersovitz, a partner in Fournier Gersovitz Moss Drolet architects (FGMDA), to lead them on their journey. On the evening of May 21, Gersovitz was invited by the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) to explain her efforts in preservation, restoration and interventions involving the house to 50 WHA members and guests. Using a Powerpoint slideshow, she took them through the vertical house,



Julia Gersovitz speaks to the Westmount Historical Association about on the Nobbs house at its May 21 lecture.



Percy Nobbs' original house with addition of new garage using the same red brick pattern as the 1913-14 house.

starting on the main floor and going up to the second and third floors and attic of this arts and crafts house. When Percy Nobbs designed this house for himself and his bride Mary Shepherd in 1913, he incorporated their initials into the wrought iron railings, along with detailed tulip heads. Nobbs, who was born in Scotland in 1875, was invited to come to Canada in 1903 when he was 28 years old, to be the director of the McGill School of Architecture. Working from the sketches Nobbs had

made of his ideas for landscaping the curving lot on which he had built his house in 1914, FGMDA designed a stone wall along the periphery of the property. The lush plantings are inspired by the English sensibility that motivated Nobbs. His original watercolours of the garden are in the John Bland Canadian Architecture Collection at McGill University. Two Scottish dormer windows were constructed facing south to provide a view of the river. They were also inspired by a sketch that Nobbs had drawn on a photo-



Carved stone insert above front door with initial N and date 1914.

graph of his house. The owners and the architect worked together to incorporate as many original features of this stunning family home as possible. A large arched opening between the living and dining rooms was opened up. The intact dumb waiter was preserved and is enjoyed and used today as much as it was 100 years ago by the Nobbs family. Most of the cast iron radiators are still in place. The modest, first-floor stairway with a hand-carved wooden panel leads to the second floor bedrooms, where the architect designed a built-in linen closet. Gersovitz concluded her delightful informative talk by advising her audience to refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* before undertaking any intervention to their own home. This was the last of the WHA's winter/spring 2015 lecture series.

Doreen Lindsay is a Westmounter and president of the Westmount Historical Association

Prince Albert schedule cont'd. from p. 1

..... bids for the city work are expected to be approved with information about Bell to come later. "Bell wasn't ready so the city will start with our own work so as not to delay the project," explained Elisa Gaetano, Public Works assistant director for infrastructure and engineering. Residents are to be notified of the changes once the tenders are approved. "The change of order doesn't mean anything," Martin explains. "What is important is that residents are aware of the program so they can plan their own activities accordingly. "Already we realize Bell unexpectedly is unable to be first up. We don't control Bell

but do control our own hydro and water and sewer networks so we're able to step in in anticipation of Bell coming in third." According to the city's timeline for the project, work to reline the water main and make other modifications is to require eight weeks. The installation of Hydro Westmount's new conduits and manholes will take another 10 weeks while Bell's new conduits had been scheduled for eight weeks. The sequence of the city work had not yet been determined last week. One lane of traffic is to remain open at all times, residents were told at a public consultation meeting April 16.

Man trips on misplaced fence on Glen

An 89-year-old man fell outside the Hydro Westmount power station on Glen Rd. May 26, Public Security officials said. Officers were alerted by Hydro workers at 10 am. Urgences Santé was called when the man was found to be bleeding from the head and arm while accompanied by a caregiver. It was not known why he was taken to Jean Talon Hospital when the accident occurred close to the MUHC super-hospital. The man was reported to have tripped on an improperly placed fence believed related to work under the Ville Marie expressway.

Montrealers caught walking dogs off leash in Woods

Two Montreal women were found walking their dogs off leash in Summit Woods at 6:46 pm May 22, Public Security officials said. Both were issued \$76 tickets. One lived on Ridgewood, the other on Hill Park Circle. Dogs are to be leashed at all times in the bird and flora sanctuary during the bird migration period April 15 to June 15.

ECS rugby champs



ECS' Midget rugby 7s team won the 2014-2015 Greater Montreal Athletic Association's (GMAA) rugby 7s championships May 8 at Concordia University's Loyola fields. The school was the only all-girl's school playing rugby in Quebec, according to parent David Hall. His daughter and Westmounter Alia Hall was named MVP of the championship game. David explained that the GMAA, in partnership with Concordia University athletics, runs two rugby 7s daylong tournaments during the season. Some 50 teams participate in the girls' and boys' tournaments.

Photo courtesy of David Hall

Haichin's event for mums raises \$2,4K



Westmounter Kate Haichin, a grade 11 student at The Study, organized a five-km run and walk to raise money and awareness for Every Mother Counts, a non-profit organization that promotes prenatal care and maternal health in under developed countries as well as North America. The event took place May 3, a week before Mother's Day, at the Westmount Athletic Grounds. Forty-one people participated, and \$2,400 was raised, according to Haichin. Part of her "integrative" school project, the idea behind the five-kilometer distance is that "it represents the average distance that women have to travel by foot to attend prenatal appointments in underdeveloped countries, where there is barely any access to clinics in rural areas – where the majority of the population lives – making it very difficult to receive prenatal care," according to Haichin.

Photo courtesy of Guittel Cohen



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Water testing prompts disclosure issue

cont'd. from p. 1

having less than eight units, built prior to 1970 and that had “a high probability of having a lead service connection.”

The six samples over the threshold ranged from 10.3 to 15.7 micrograms per litre, indicating the lead content was of “minor concern,” council members were told by Public Works officials.

The current standards for lead in drinking water are far more stringent than those before 2001, when the threshold was 50 micrograms per litre. An “action level” set by the US Environmental Protection Agency uses 15 as the threshold.

Knowing you have lead in the water over

the acceptability level should be disclosed to a potential buyer, according to longtime Westmount real estate agent Paul Harrison (see separate story).

Health Canada guidelines for drinking water quality state that “the absorption of even low levels of lead into the blood may have harmful health effects on the intellectual and behavioural development of infants and young children.”

Lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or from the solder that connects pipes, according to information from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. When water sits in leaded pipes for several hours, lead can leach into the water supply.

Results must be published

Because the results from the Westmount water tests “must be published,” the March minutes state, it was recommended that they be posted on the city website after being communicated to the residents whose water was tested.

The city’s detailed information brochure called *The Facts about Lead and your Tap Water* is posted and has been available for some time at city hall.

Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, told the *Independent* last week he recommends that concerned residents run the cold water for

about five minutes in the morning to remove stagnant water from the pipes.

Lead and other impurities such as iron from rust in the pipes can be influenced by the length of time water sits in the pipes.

While the Westmount samples tested were taken from inside the homes, it remained “unclear” whether the source of the lead came from the resident’s portion of the water entry pipe or from the city’s portion that leads from the valve at the property line to the water main in the street.

While the city’s policy is to replace lead services on the city’s portion whenever work is carried out on a water main, “it’s really up to the citizen to decide whether or not they want to change their portion of the pipe at the same time,” Martin said.

The city work provides an excellent opportunity for building owners to take advantage of the street excavation to replace their own portion of the water connection. Residents of Prince Albert have been asked to consider this option during the upcoming work on that street (see story April 28, p. 5).

The small sampling from Westmount homes compares with a six-year study conducted in Toronto (2008 to 2014) of 15,000 water samples submitted voluntarily. This found that 13 percent of homes exceeded the 10 micrograms per litre threshold.

How do you know if your water contains lead?

“There are various labs that test water,” Councillor Patrick Martin explained. The city brochure lists two.

“You can check your water pipe as it enters the house to see if it’s made of lead. If it is, it probably is lead all the way to the property line. Public Works can tell you if the city side of the entry pipe is lead or not judging by its age.

“In any case, I would advise people to at least let the cold water run 30 seconds before they pour a glass of water to get rid of any impurities such as iron from rust in the pipes.

Martin also encourages “everybody” to add a water filter to the kitchen tap. It improves the taste and takes out the impurities, he adds. “You can do it yourself and you don’t need a city permit.”

Letters cont'd. from p. 8

self-renewing source of wood (that can last for hundreds of years) and, in the past, was a sustainable form of lumber production. In fact, in Britain, the oldest trees are coppice stools that date well over 1,000 years. This form of lumber production dates to the Neolithic (stone age) era evidenced by ancient wooden tracks, from coppiced trees, across the peat moors in Somerset Levels, England.

Along the Anatolian coast (present-day Turkey), a honey is produced from red pines. One specific insect (*marcheliana hel-lenica*) burrows under the bark, concealed in whitish secretions, and produces a sugary pinkish-coloured honey dew that is collected by bees.

Native Americans (particularly the Ojibwe people) used the trees’ needles to make dancing figures. The needles were cut to form a dress and arms, then placed on a sheet of birch bark that when tilted gave the appearance of the figures dancing.

Finally, the reverence Native Americans had for pine trees is reflected in the poignant Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) legend that tells of seven dancing brothers who one day rose from earth to become stars. One of the brothers looked back and saw their mother crying – in doing so, he fell back to earth. At the point where he entered the ground, a towering pine tree grew that pointed to the location of the other brothers in the sky.

MICHAEL WALSH, MELVILLE AVE.

Disclosure required, agent says

The six results that came in over the threshold were from homes on Somerville, Blenheim Place, Abbott and Claremont, where the city plans for “intervention” work on the water main. The other two were on Upper Lansdowne and Grosvenor (de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke).

One of these residents told the *Independent* she now wonders if this means she will be required to disclose the presence of lead in the drinking water when she comes to sell her house.

The simple answer is “yes,” according to veteran Westmount real estate agent Paul Harrison, adding: “only if it’s above the acceptable level.”

“If you know you have it, you declare it. The concern is that you knew and did absolutely nothing to mitigate it. If you added a filter, there should be no problem but you declare that the filter needs changing. What’s relevant, also, is how much over the acceptability level is it.”

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Sternthal honoured by Montreal black community



During a fashion show held at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall May 9 as part of the first-ever Montreal Caribbean Fashion Week, Westmount resident Johanne Sternthal, right, a theatre producer, author and philanthropist, was presented with the Montreal Ebony Models (MEM) Lifetime Achievement Award by MEM president Gemma Raeburn-Baynes. Among the causes for which Sternthal helped raise money over the years was the Negro Community Centre.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Turkish Couscous Salad

by Irene Y

This is a variation of a couscous salad at a small Turkish restaurant in London. It is great for a pot luck and tastes even better the next day. It lasts several days in the fridge.

Ingredients

- 1 cup vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 cup couscous
- 1/8 Cup Olive oil
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp red onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp pomegranate molasses or lemon juice
- 1 tomato, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, shredded
- 1 cup parsley, chopped
- almonds, toasted and chopped, currants, other dried fruit (optional)
- salt & pepper to taste

Directions

- 1 Pour couscous into a glass bowl. Add hot stock. Stir using a fork.
- 2 Cover bowl for 10 minutes or until stock

has been absorbed. Fluff couscous with a fork to break up any lumps.

- 3 Pour olive oil in a pan or Dutch Oven and place over medium heat. Add tomato paste, stir and fry for about 2 minutes. (removes bitterness).
- 4 Add onion. Sauté for a few minutes until onions are translucent. Remove from heat. Let cool 5 minutes.
- 5 Add cooked couscous to pan. Stir until couscous takes on a red colour. Season with a little salt and pepper.
- 6 Add the lemon or pomegranate molasses and toss gently.
- 7 Add chopped tomatoes, parsley, shredded carrots, chopped almonds and dried fruit (if using). Gently stir to combine. Check seasoning and add extra pepper, salt or pomegranate molasses/lemon juice to taste if necessary.
- 8 Transfer couscous salad to a bowl or plate and serve lukewarm or at room temperature.



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Trent stops work on dog run re-configuration into park

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent said May 31 he had stopped work related to new configurations for the dog run and bike path in Westmount Park. The decision came after he discovered “the latest iteration” had moved too far north into the park.

Staked out with lines painted on the ground and large X’s marking trees to be removed, the design was viewed with concern by Trent and many councillors attending Family Day in the park on May 30.

“We came to the general consensus that this was not acceptable. We all said it had gone far into the park.”

On site, the design appeared different from what they had been shown on paper, he explained. It also differed from what had appeared to Trent to have been staked out a week earlier, he recalled, calling it “a moving target.”

“We plan to review the design on Monday [June 1,] and we’re asking for a re-design,” he said, “We need to find out why it has crept so far north.”

When Trent originally proposed the site running east-west just north of the new junior tennis courts last fall, he explained, “My idea was that since a street – de Maisonneuve – had once run through the park, no one should complain about a dog run there. But not if they start cutting down trees and going north into the park.”

The plan had been to straighten the bike path and realign it slightly north to accommodate the dog run, which would expand west onto the roof of the WRC. But when it was reported that this would invalidate the roof warranty, the dog run was moved off the roof and north into the park.

This in turn pushed the bike path and pedestrian paths further into the park and into what was described by the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association as a dangerous sloping curve that would affect sight lines (see story May 26, p. 1).

Despite the moratorium, the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) sent out emails May 31 asking members to turn out to the council meeting Monday night to address their concerns of which the council had been informed.

A posting on the WMA’s website cites, in particular, the safety of cyclists and pedestrians presented by the current design.

A path runs through it?



Seen May 26, red spray paint marks the planned re-routing of the bike path through Westmount Park, including a big dot on a gingko to the north of the current walking path. This is the design Mayor Peter Trent asked to be reworked after seeing it May 30. See story, same page.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Ritz-Residences welcome Westmounters



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a glorious mid-May day, the Ritz-Residences welcomed the chicest ladies in town to the high-in-the-sky Ritz-Residences penthouse of Emmelle and Alvin Segal. Emmelle, sophisticated in a suit accented with a classic white camellia flower à la Chanel, welcomed guests who were part of Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim annual table setting event.

This year, "The Table is Set: Elegant Table Settings" was held in the homes of designer Yves Lefebvre as well as at local residents Ruth Cohen, Judy Colle, Roz Druckman, Anna Mendal, Hainya Wiseman and Vicki Feil, who co-chaired the event with Westmount Tronny Sweibel.

The settings were amazing, coordinated with creative floral arrangements, fabulous table linens and the finest crystal, silverware and porcelain.

Outstanding as always were the many table settings featured at Wiseman's penthouse. The table settings tour ended at the Segals, where the closing cocktail featured wine and party sandwiches. A long sparkling chandelier linked their two-storey abode. Hanging from the top floor, the bottom end of the chandelier touched the parquet floor of the living room and was surrounded with orchid plants to prevent someone from stepping on the crystal pieces. For the spring sojourn, ladies wore on-trend styles, ranging from cocktail dresses to a perfect LBD (Little Black Dress: Marissa Nuss and Lenore Harris).

Most ladies wore pearls, some as statement pieces mixed with precious stones. Designer accessories were sported by all,



From left: Vicki Feil, Emmelle Segal and Tronny Sweibel.



Hainya Wiseman

from Hermès scarves (Laurie Samuelson) to Vuitton bags (Wiseman) – not to mention marvellous shoes, many highly heeled and red-soled. (Gentle readers know what that brand is.)

Elegant men were also *continued on p. 34*

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From left: Judy Kornbluth, Laurie Samuelson and Carole Zuckerman.



Marian Levy, left, and Carol Koffler.

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 33

amidst the guests. Norman Charbonneau was Riviera-ready in a bright blue linen

jacket; Marcel Tessier's silk pocket handkerchief echoed the hue of his shirt; Errol Pereira wore a stylish suit as did Jacques Auray and Yves Lefebvre, and André Piquette wore a New York-cool blue shirt with white collar and cuffs.

Noted in the crowded room were Westmounters Amy Kornik, Carol Koffler, Elaine Dubrovsky, Laura Roditi, Carole Zuckerman, Sarah Rubin, Sisterhood president Lillian Azoulay Schwartz (in spring time Schiaparelli fuchsia) as well as Ghislaine Brownstein, Marian Levy, executive committee of the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Rucsandra Calin, sales director, Residences at the Ritz-Carlton.

The successful day raised \$30,000, a record year, which benefits the congregation's Meals on Wheels program, delivering hot kosher meals to the senior community.



From left: Marissa Nuss, Lenore Harris and Judy Colle.

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Port Royal \$2,649,000
Unique opportunity to acquire a corner unit (3581 SF) with panoramic views & customize it to your own taste. MLS 21538079



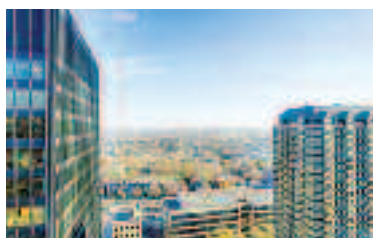
WESTMOUNT

48 Holton \$2,295,000
Spectacular ENGLISH style TOWNHOUSE in most sought after Westmount LOCATION! 4+1 bdr, 2 car garage, large deck. MLS 19422527



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WESTMOUNT

2 Westmount Square #18A \$2,195,000
Magnificent contemporary 3175 SF, 3 bedroom, 3 bath on two levels with astonishing views from 18 & 19th floor. MLS 19978791



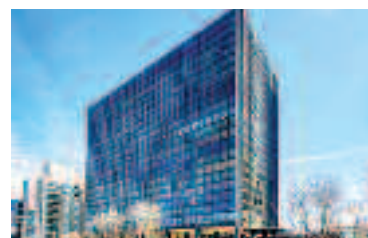
OUTREMONT

69 Fernhill \$2,075,000
Modern detached 3 bdr with rooftop terrace, garage, jacuzzi, steps to Mt-Royal. MLS 18459505



WESTMOUNT

655 Côte St-Antoine \$1,295,000
Large and lovely 5+1 semi with double garage in Victoria Village. A real bargain!! MLS 9418984



WESTMOUNT

2 Westmount Square #606 \$1,095,000
North East corner unit, 1605SF with astonishing views of the mountain. RENOVATOR'S DREAM!!! MLS 9443527



DOWNTOWN

1420 Av Des Pins, Apt D \$798,000
Prestigious condo in Gillespie House, 2 bdr, 2 bth, garage, private elevator access...MLS 26374800



WENTWORTH WATERFRONT

199 Lisbourg \$699,000
15 min to St-Sauveur. Magnificent recently reno'd on a spectacular property. Paradise! MLS 15963688



WESTMOUNT

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



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

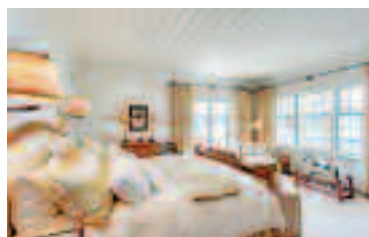
1960 Kildare \$1,495,000
Beautiful, sunny, renovated 4 bedroom detached residence, on a 6000 sq ft lot, located in a prime location of TMR MLS 11876953



WESTMOUNT

451 Mountain \$1,395,000
Amazing price for an amazing house. MLS 19256838

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ANOTHER JUST LISTED & SOLD by Brian @ 99.5% in 4 days!



Westmount, 14 Springfield Ave.
Delightful 1900 Victorian between 2 parks. Loaded with original architectural detail + woodwork. Many improvements. 4 bdrs, finished basement, 1 car prkg. **\$799,000**

ANOTHER JUST SOLD!



Westmount adj., 3470 Vendôme Ave.
The BEST Westmount adj.location! Spacious 1915 cottage. Oak woodwork, hardwood floors, beamed ceilings,+ fireplaces. 2 car prkg. Proximity to Sherbrooke St. **\$898,000**



Westmount, 521 Clarke Ave.
An exquisitely planned home. LARGE, elegant spaces, exceptionally high ceilings, beautiful details, wdwrk, + workmanship. 5+1 bdrmm, gr. flr den. 4 car prkg. **\$1,795,000**



Westmount, 20 Thornhill Ave.
Impeccable 3+1 bdrmm 1923 home. City views, + sunny SW exposure, large garden. Reno'd kitchen + bathrooms. Oak woodwork, leaded windows. 2 car prkg. **\$1,395,000**



Westmount, 707 Victoria Ave.
Delightful S/D property offering EXQUISITE architectural details, beautifully spacious rooms, numerous upgrades. 3 bdrms, 3½ bathrooms, garage + parking. **\$1,195,000**



Westmount, 25 Burton Ave.
Spacious, well loved 1905 townhouse in the “Victoria Village”. Many recents improvements. Large, sun filled rooms, + a delightful garden oasis. EXCELLENT value! **\$798,000**



Westmount, 4 Chesterfield Ave.
Gloriously sun filled 3 bdrmm, 1½ bathroom 1960 built home ideally situated. LOADED with features normally impossible to get at this price! Garage, central A/C. **\$799,000**



Westmount, 765 Upper-Belmont Ave.
Amongst the finest S/D homes. Quality construction + IMPECCABLY maintained. PRIME location. Large extension at rear. Exquisite details. 5 bdrs, 2 car garage. **\$1,498,000**



Westmount, 557 Lansdowne Ave.
RARELY available. PRIME mid-level location! Remarkably spacious, extensively renovated 4 + 1 bdr. Large garden. 2 car garage. Close to King George Park + the best schools. **\$1,595,000**



Westmount, 234 Metcalfe Ave.
STUNNING, architectural marvel blending 21st c. cutting edge design with Victorian elegance. Renov. from top to bottom. 5 bdrmm, 4½ baths. 2 car garage + pkg. **\$1,450,000**



Westmount, 7 Douglas Ave.
Fully renovated, “John Hand” built home. Exceptional woodwork/stained glass. Peaceful, family friendly location. 4 bdrms, 3½ bathrooms. Garage and garden. **\$1,398,000**



Westmount, 4444 Sherbrooke W. #106
Rarely available + desirable! Spacious, fully reno'd 3 bdrmm, 2 bath co-op. Well run doorman bldg, roof pool, views. Impeccable! Garage, locker. Washer/dryer. **\$649,000**



Downtown, Le Chateau
SPECTACULAR! The ULTIMATE in high end luxury living at Downtown's premier address. TOTALLY renovated 1,550 sq ft 1 bdr co-op apt. Truly breathtaking. **\$1,095,000**

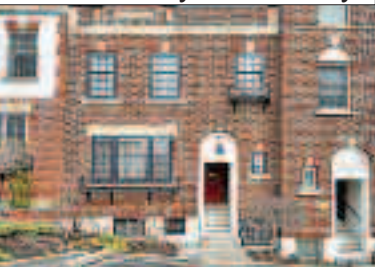


West Bolton, ET, 271 Spicer Rd.
Idyllic 39 acre estate. Ponds, swimming pool, tennis court, main house + guest cottage. No finer combination of comfort, privacy, + privilege at this price. **\$1,495,000**



Westmount adj., 3027 ch. de Breslay
GLORIOUSLY sun filled 2+1 bdrmm s/d townhouse desirably located near Sherbrooke St. Spectacular courtyard garden. Large kitchen/family room. 2 car garage. Very attractively priced! **\$1,598,000**

LISTED & SOLD by Brian in 19 days!



Ville Marie, 28 Place de Richelieu
Downtown living combining the luxury of strolling to the finest stores + restaurants, inner court location. TOTALLY + EXQUISITELY redone, sparing NO expense! **\$1,695,000**

LISTED & SOLD @ 98%!



Westmount, 19 Thornhill Ave.
Prime location! Delightful details. **\$1,495,000**

SOLD by Brian in 2 days @ 98%!



Westmount, 611 Roslyn Ave.
Elegantly spacious home! **\$1,395,000**

SOLD by Brian in 3 days @ 99%!



3031 ch. de Breslay
Immaculate luxury townhouse! **\$1,495,000**

SOLD @ 98%!



Westmount, 796 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
Fabulous 3+1 bedroom fully renovated home opposite park. Dream kitchen! A/C! 2 car garage! **\$1,475,000**

#5 in Quebec for Re/Max 2014*

#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**