

Felgar: NDGers speak up on MUHC noise emissions

'It's a game changer'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A turn of events is reported to be opening up a new dimension in the fight of Westmount residents against noise emissions from the super-hospital's ventilation systems.

NDG residents are now starting to come forward from as far west as Prud'homme Ave. requesting their complaints be added to a motion for authorization of a class action suit, the *Independent* learned last week. This was filed May 8 in Quebec Superior Court against the NDG-based hospital and its building consortium.

"It's a game changer," said Marc Felgar, of York St.

Felgar, who has been spearheading the

legal action as part of Neighbours of the Glen Campus Group, said the emergence of NDG residents in reporting the noise should now enable Montreal's noise by-law to be enforced and fines applied.

About 15 attestations had been received from NDG residents by last week, according to class action lawyer Catherine Sylvestre of Sylvestre Fafard Painchaud.

In a meeting with Mayor Peter Trent, NDG-Côte des Neiges borough mayor Russell Copeman was reported to have stated the borough could not enforce its noise by-law until a complainant came forward from that jurisdiction (see April 7, p. 1).

"The more people who register their concerns as a member of the class action – both in Westmount and NDG – the easier it will be

continued on p. 15

Retrieving the colours



Mayor Peter Trent hands over the colours of the disbanded 401 (City of Westmount) Squadron June 23 to a colour party from Cold Lake, Alberta, where the air force unit is to be reactivated June 30 as 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron. The colours had been preserved at city hall. See story, p. 10.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

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Residents pick more than one

7 streets nominated for 'worst condition' distinction

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What are the worst streets in Westmount? The answers are in, according to Councillor Patrick Martin.

Leading the pack for needing the most urgent work are eastbound Dorchester (Greene to Atwater), Westmount Ave. (Belmont to Claremont) and Belvedere Rd. (Summit Rd. to Côte des Neiges).

Martin, who is Public Works commissioner, said he received 27 emails or phone

calls naming a total of seven streets in response to his question (see story June 2, p. 3). Most people proposed the one they lived on and some people voted for more than one street.

Other streets receiving "dishonourable mentions" went to de Lavigne (east city limits to Mount Pleasant), Greene (south of St. Catherine), Sunnyside (Belvedere to Bellevue) and The Boulevard.

"I was very impressed by the level of interest and

continued on p. 5

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Sherbrooke closed for walkers to new hospital, Team Westmount also



Left: Thousands walk along Sherbrooke St. through Westmount from Dawson College to the MUHC Glen site, led by Montreal mayor Denis Coderre, Westmount mayor Peter Trent and member of parliament for Westmount-Ville Marie Marc Garneau. There were volunteers, flag bearers, pipe bands and Korean dancers among the marchers. The Walk for Montreal took place June 20 beneath bright blue skies starting at 9 am. The event to celebrate the new super-hospital continued on June 21. Right: Several members of Team Westmount gather at Dawson College. The group was organized by city councillor Rosalind Davis, commissioner of Sports and Recreation, seen holding the Westmount flag. "This is a big event, preparation has been on-going for about a year and a half," she said.

Photos: Ralph Thompson

No more pencils, no more books ... and no more shirts

Three teenagers were spotted stamping on the remains of a small fire behind 5015 Sherbrooke at Claremont June 16 Public Security officials said. One fled on the ap-

proach of patrollers. The other two were described as cooperative and stated they had been trying to burn their school shirts. Officers had received the call before 9 am

for kids lighting debris on fire. Some garden debris and white material were found. They were identified as residents of NDG and Laval aged about 16 and 17.

Diamond ring found

A Westmount resident reported finding a silver-coloured ring containing nine stones that resembled diamonds in Westmount Park June 17, Public Security officials said. Patrollers took it to local police station 12.

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City gives work timetables for ‘worst streets’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In the city’s recently announced measures to “catch up” with renewing street infrastructure, Councillor Patrick Martin provided details last week on the timing and requirements of the work on some of the “worst” streets picked by residents – and, in other cases, the challenges they pose.

The three top picks for urgent attention were Dorchester, Westmount Ave. and the

stretch of Belvedere Rd. leading down to Côte des Neiges (see separate story p. 1). Not yet known is future work on Belvedere, as well as other streets named.

In the case of de Lavigne and Sunnyside, Martin said, “we’ll see what we can do now that we have had a healthy budget surplus last year and expect another in 2016.”

Dorchester repaving this year

The city has already gone to tender to

repave the eastbound stretch of Dorchester (Greene to Atwater), and council is expected to award the work at the July 6 council meeting, Martin said. He described the street as in “horrible condition.”

The work is planned to start mid-July. It will consist of scarification (removal) of the asphalt, repairs to the concrete base and three inches of asphalt resurfacing in two layers. The lower level is to use asphalt having a higher bitumen content than the city has been using in an effort to prevent cracking.

“Council had already allocated budget to redo this street this summer, and I am pleased that residents agree so wholeheartedly with this decision.” He said these funds were made available when it was decided to defer the road reconstruction phase of Prince Albert until 2016.

Start of Westmount Ave.

The reconstruction of Westmount Ave. will take two years starting this summer with relining the water main followed by road work in 2016. The water main contract is expected to be awarded at the July 6 council meeting.

While Public Works had initially planned to undertake the road work in two sections, planned for 2016 and 2017, Martin said, “we urged them to do all the paving work in a single summer, so as to reduce the inconvenience to local residents.”

Belvedere – ‘special case’

Belvedere from Summit Rd. to Côte des Neiges is a special case, Martin said. “The design for improving this long and expensive street will be a challenge, with problems of grade and slope, underground streams, proximity of bedrock, and the

need to widen to accommodate currently nonexistent sidewalks.”

Nor, he added, “is there unanimity on the part of residents to undertake this work. For every resident who wants improved access to Côte des Neiges, there is one who is very fearful of the additional traffic that would be generated in upper Westmount by this improved road.”

Other streets named: Greene

Work on Greene, south of St. Catherine, awaits information from Transport Quebec on plans for closing the on-ramp from Greene to the Ville Marie expressway and the closing of Selby “so we can then redesign the street,” Martin explained.

“I would expect that it would become a two-way street from St. Catherine to St. Antoine. Moneys are available to do this street as soon as we know the plans.”

‘Major undertaking’ on The Boulevard

“The Boulevard will be a major undertaking,” Martin pointed out. Stretching 2 kilometers from one end of Westmount to the other, it has varying widths throughout and “will require a major re-think, followed by a very expensive and disruptive reconstruction.”

Next section of Sunnyside

Sunnyside was repaved last year from Lexington to Upper Bellevue. The next sections all the way to Belvedere Rd. are in poor condition, Martin said.

De Lavigne

De Lavigne is a short section of poor road. What is most striking about it, Martin said, is that the Montreal section is in good condition. “At the ‘Welcome to Westmount’ sign, the road deteriorates. It is embarrassing.”



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Recycling habits change only slightly

Electronics up, blue and green bins down

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Preliminary waste management figures compiled by Public Works for 2014 show a slight increase in the recuperation of electronic equipment but decreases in blue-bin recycling, green-bin food collection and organics in general.

These results released last week are expected to change once figures from Montreal eco-centres are received for the generally heavy items taken there from Westmount. These include construction material, bulk items, some leaves and household hazardous waste.

These are included as part of the annual results published by Montreal for amounts eliminated from landfill in all agglomeration municipalities.

As a result, "it's premature at this point to calculate amounts diverted from landfill," said city environmental coordinator Marina Peter.

"We expect tonnages for organic waste will be slightly higher than what we are reporting now. We don't have much fluctuation from year to year."

What is known now is the total amount of discarded items collected by the city in 2014 was 9,770 metric tonnes (MT). Of this amount, 5,375 was sent to landfill.

Diverted from landfill

Of the remaining amount diverted from landfill were 2,150 MT of blue-bin recyclables, 2,186 MT of organic matter and 59 MT of electronics, textiles and household hazardous waste. The blue-bin amount in-

cluded 37.5 MT of cardboard and paper materials picked up by the city from the commercial sectors.

While the blue-bin recycling amounts were down 7.4 percent over the previous year, "It could be with recyclables that people are now more aware of what they purchase and that manufacturers are reducing the amount of their packaging," Peter suggested. "Reducing is something we should concentrate on."

An increase in electronic equipment diverted from landfill from 22 MT to 23 MT is a good sign for the future, she said.

Peter said she was encouraged to see even a slight increase in the disposal of electronics equipment taken to the city's Public Works depot and the household hazardous waste collection. This is especially important now as this equipment ages and is replaced. "Turnover is much more often now as people want to buy something new on the market."

It takes a while for people to change habits, she said. "This is a new field that we were already set up for, and we're happy people are using it. For years, people were putting paint out at the curb, now they know to keep it aside for the household hazardous waste collections."

These used electronics are taken to the Association pour le recyclage des produits électroniques, where it is dismantled and various pieces recycled. The new environmental fee on the sale of certain electronic equipment goes toward this process.

One area that was down over the previous year was the green-bin collection. "We

would like participation in the food waste program to increase," Peter said. This year, the amounts were down 1.8 percent.

While the city has no statistics on the rate of participation, people who aren't currently separating out their kitchen waste can speak to a neighbour to find out how to do it or check tips on the city's website, she explained.

Those who are participating in the green-bin program "can also be a little more vigilant when they finish eating to ensure all food scraps are separated into a kitchen counter container," Peter said.

Waste material collected by the city in metric tonnes

Type of material	2014	2013
Recyclables (blue bin)	2,150	2,323
Organic material	*2,186	2,208
- garden waste	599	652
- leaves	*986	945
- food waste	601	611
Household hazardous waste	*9.3	30
Textiles (clothing)	*27	25
Electronics	*23	22
Diverted from landfill	*4,395	
To landfill	5,375	5,300
- household garbage	5,168	
- dry, bulky garbage	207	
Construction (Eco-centres)	TBD	1,254
*subject to change		

7 roads cont'd. from p. 1

by the time and energy of the respondents, some of whom wrote long emails in support of their candidate," Martin said.

When will these streets be improved?

Repaving of Dorchester is slated to start mid-July, he said. Work on Westmount Ave. has been accelerated so that after re-lining the water main this year, reconstruction of the street can take place in 2016 (see separate story, p. 4).

Some of the other streets, including high traffic volume ones like The Boulevard, for example, provide major challenges.

Public Works has been prioritizing its infrastructure and road work "in the most cost-effective manner for the taxpayers, within the available budget," he explained. But "there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that in recent years, city council has not allocated sufficient funds to infra-

structure renewal.

As a result, "we are running a deficit in infrastructure while accumulating appar-

ent monetary budget surpluses. In my opinion, the financial surplus is outweighed by infrastructure debt."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FOR HELPING HAND TO MELVILLE RESIDENT

We would like to thank a very kind gentleman who helped get my husband home after a fall on a recent Saturday.

We got his first name – Andrew – and that he lives on Melville Ave.

We are so very grateful.

BRIAN AND JEAN O'NEILL,
LANSDOWNE AVE.

GIVE BACK THE MONEY

The recently announced budget surplus of \$12 million, which represents 27 percent of the total allocated amount of the city's operating budget for 2015 is outrageous. What's more is that we now have a total accumulated surplus of \$20 million.

I think that incompetency on all levels of the administration is not too strong a characterization. The fact of the matter is that they are over-taxing us either on incorrect calculations or on ridiculously conservative assumptions. In either case, they are holding our money. It should be given back to us.

They can tax us when they have realistic plans to repair our seriously deteriorating

infrastructure. They should not be holding our money for use in the future. Bill us when you are actually going to spend the money. You do not have the right to over-tax us, hold the money and collect interest on it.

If any one of us were to prepare a budget with an error of this magnitude or use "sky is falling" type assumptions, I seriously doubt that we would be able to hang on to our jobs.

Please give us our money back.

JOHN ZBARSKY, BELVEDERE RD.

BE THANKFUL FOR THE MUSIC

I just cannot believe the complaint of people living on Lexington or nearby about noise at 11 pm (re: "F1 party on Lexington, balcony noise too loud," June 16, p. 5).

How can people be so narrow-minded and call [Public] Security for the noise of music?

Why are residents not allowed to be happy and have fun and enjoy life from time to time?

Eleven at night is not late. My husband and I are elderly people, and we are really

happy to see and hear a little presence of life in our neighbourhood, which is usually so quiet – even too quiet sometimes.

There is so little life and music.

People who are complaining about music before 1 am should think that they will have a lot of time without noise once they will be in the cemetery.

Please note that we live very near to the "F1 party home," and we were not at all disturbed by any noise.

It is too sad that some people do not know how to enjoy life and to be happy for our neighbours.

ROSEMARIE NAMY, LEXINGTON AVE.

NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN LADIES' LOCKER ROOM

The Westmount recreation centre ladies' changing room is a huge disappointment in design and convenience. As a locker room for changing in and out of street clothes and bathing suits, and using the showers, it does not accommodate the number of users travelling through.

The space provided for changing is much less than adequate in comparison to the state-of-the-art swimming pool accommodation and usage.

What were the architects thinking when

the centre was being built? That, perhaps, the popularity of the outdoor pool would be minimal and not a viable source of activity for the residents of Westmount, not to mention outsiders?

The mothers with children demand room to change and babies take up sink counters for diaper changes, making the space very cramped and unhygienic.

There is simply not enough room for us all.

PAMELA BUJWID, GROSVENOR AVE. AND
KIMBERLY LAPENSON, ST. CATHERINE ST.

DOG RUN NOT AT LANSDOWNE BECAUSE OF POM

Now we know! Conspiracy and collusion trump common sense. The "POM" people [residents of the 4700 St. Catherine St. condos] have been the tail wagging the dog.

The mayor said there were good reasons not to put the dog run back at Lansdowne. Now we know what the reason was. There is room there for dogs in the sun and shade, and room for people with towels also.

THOMASINE MAWHOOD,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

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Springfield block party back



Springfield Ave. held its 9th block party June 17 after a two-year hiatus. Karla Gruodis and Joanne Miller organized the "cinq-à-sept" event. Some 70 residents of Springfield, Metcalfe and Mt. Stephen attended. People brought food and the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim loaned tables and contributed drinks and ice.

Photo courtesy of Diana Bruno

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MUHC opens new cardiac clinic at Queen E Health Complex

BY ISAAC OLSON

Westmounter Dr. Nadia Giannetti, the chief of cardiology at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), says the new cardiovascular clinic in NDG's Queen Elizabeth Health Complex will serve as a quick and easy way for non-emergency patients to see a heart specialist rather than waiting for months to receive out-patient care.

This clinic, opened just over a month ago, serves up fast, front-line cardiovascular services to the community.

Emphasizing tertiary and quaternary care (specialized consultative health care, usually for inpatients on referral), Giannetti said the freshly renovated cardiovascular clinic is already very busy with five examination rooms and a team of specialists ready to take a close look at patients who are concerned about their heart health. Patients, she said, must be referred to the clinic by their doctor or specialist.

"Prior to opening this clinic, it was difficult as you had to wait a month or two to see a cardiologist, which is unacceptable, so now it is definitely within a week that you can see a cardiologist at this clinic,

with a referral," said Giannetti, noting this service is unique for this geographic area. "We basically have cardiologists from the MUHC that come here – most of us work primarily at the Glen – and we decide if patients can continue to be followed here or we refer to them to the main hospital for more complex tests."

People who have symptoms such as palpitations or shortness of breath are referred to the cardiac clinic, she said. The clinic, she said, has all the technology it needs for front-line testing. Those tests allow doctors to decide the next step for patients. There will soon be a room with treadmills, she said, where patients will be asked to exercise while stress tests are performed. If more complex care is needed with the more advanced equipment, she said the patient is sent to the Glen campus of the MUHC.

The plan, she said, is to offer longer hours, such as evenings and weekends, that are outside the normal work week services offered at the hospital

The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex, based on Northcliffe Ave., has a history dating back more than a century and the

building does, in some places, show its age, but the new clinic, located on the second floor just a few steps from ancient elevators, is completely modern.

Giannetti has been with the MUHC for 15 years. She used to be based at the Royal Victoria and now her primary work is at the Glen. She also spends half her day at the clinic.

"I think this is great because it used to be difficult to access cardiologists, so this is why we built this," she said. "This way people can access cardiologists much more easily than in the past. It's rapid access for the community, for the patients. You don't want to wait a couple months to see a cardiologist if you have a real problem. It's not an emergency clinic, but, within a week, patients can be seen."



Dr. Nadia Giannetti in front of the MUHC's new cardiovascular clinic based in the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex on June 2.

Blowing away the dollars

After a number of \$270 tickets given out in previous weeks to contractors using leaf blowers out of season, at least four more were issued within three days, according to Public Security officials. One was issued June 16 on Mount Pleasant at 7:42 am and another for \$76 at the same time for not

having a contractor's permit from the city.

The next day, a contractor was ticketed for using a leaf blower outside 320 Kensington while one was also caught in action June 18 outside 4702 Westmount Ave. He was also told to get a contractor's permit.

Tony's sells street food for Queen E



Pierrette Sévigny McConomy, left, and Tony Fagnoli of Tony's Shoes stand outside the store June 13 during its street hotdog sale. It was a fundraiser for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation. Fagnoli was also serving large-sized chocolate chip cookies. Some \$2,100 was raised.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave

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Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

WHA has its AGM, Lindsay to step down as pres

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

The Westmount Historical Association (WHA) held its annual general meeting on June 3 in the board room of the Westmount Public Library, attended by 12. Annual reports were read, followed by the election of directors for the upcoming year. Six of the present directors from the

pentier secretary. Two new board members, Lorne Huston and Elizabeth Currie, were accepted as members at large. Caroline Breslaw stepped down as vice president but will stay on as a member at large. The revised WHA by-laws were presented by the by-law committee and



Some of the directors of the Westmount Historical Association at its annual general meeting June 3, from left, back row: Pina Santillo, Anne Barkman, Louise Carpentier and Jane Atkinson; front row: Jane Martin, Doreen Lindsay and Caroline Breslaw.

Photo courtesy of Doreen Lindsay

2014-15 year were elected by acclamation and are to continue with a two-year mandate into the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, with the exception of Sharon Sparling and Jane Atkinson, who retired. Jane Martin is archivist, Pina Santillo treasurer, Anne Barkman membership secretary and web manager, Louise Car-

adopted. They include limiting the length of term of office to two years. I announced my retirement, after 12 years as president, to take effect at the end of this term. Doreen Lindsay is a Westmounter and president of the Westmount Historical Association

AGM: Contactivity had ‘a good year’



Seen at the table during Contactivity Centre's annual general meeting on May 28 are, from left: board secretary Lise Gagnon, out-going president Kitty Lackenbauer, newly-elected president Tony Wait and executive director Mary Stark.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Contactivity Centre's executive director Mary Stark began its annual general meeting on May 28 with a quote from writer C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or dream another dream." And indeed, she confirmed that during the past year members of the seniors' centre proved they weren't too old to do pretty much anything. "All in all, it was a good year, and we kept busy with purposeful and often creative activities," said Stark. "We kept on top of current societal trends and followed hearings for proposed legislation as it was a pretty lively year politically, and we did what we could to raise awareness in others. We looked out for one another and enjoyed the companionship of both our contemporaries and younger generations who sometimes come to join our activities. "We stepped out to be more visible, and we stepped up to monitor current affairs and then express ourselves about societal changes that impact seniors, often by partnering with advocacy groups. The result has been a growing sense of involvement

with each other and with the society around us." One of the highlights of the year's activities was a flash mob the members staged last summer at Alexis Nihon Plaza on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. They also marched in a parade downtown on International Seniors Day in October, learned about using social media, danced the tango and practised French conversation. Members took courses, went on out-of-town day trips, took part in community meals and exchanged ideas in interest groups. The centre's employees and volunteers helped house-bound senior citizens and provided transportation for seniors to medical appointments. On several occasions during the year, guest speakers were invited to come in and inform members on various topics, including seniors and safety, disability tax credits, nutrition and aging, medical alert devices and protection against theft and fraud. From an operational standpoint, Contactivity Centre ended the year with a surplus of \$640 out of a budget of around \$432,000.

The centre receives funding from the provincial and federal governments, the city of Westmount and Centraide. Some of its revenue also comes from private foundations and donors, as well as from fees charged for services, programs and courses.

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Complainant threatens couple with baseball bat after rooftop issue

What started off as a complaint about two people on a roof letting off fireworks June 21 ended up with the two of them being allegedly threatened by the complainant with a baseball bat, according to Public Security officials.

Patrollers had been called to the building on Sherbrooke near Olivier at 6 am. On arrival, the complainant showed them how to access the roof, where they found one person sleeping and a man and a woman talking quietly, but no sign of fireworks.

About an hour later, officers were called to Sherbrooke and Clarke for an altercation on the sidewalk. There, they found the same man and woman who had been on the roof and the complainant armed with

a baseball bat allegedly threatening them. Police were called and responded with three squad cars.

The matter was left for police to sort out, and no further details were reported.

Loud grad parties, music annoy residents

Two noisy parties were reported disturbing neighbours June 16, Public Security officials said. One at 10:06 pm at the rear of a house on Redfern south of Sherbrooke was found to be a large graduation party for kids completing elementary school. The second at 11:45 pm was traced to Redfern and Kensington where a group of 12 girls was found listening to music on their cell phones. They said they were heading downtown and left in taxis at 12:12 am.

On June 17, officers received a call for loud music at St. Leon's where a grad party was found in full swing at 4:07 pm. The music was lowered.

Another grad party was toned down June 19 at 11:36 pm at the rear of a house on de Maisonneuve near Redfern. Guests were ushered inside.

Three get \$76 curfew tickets at lookout

Three men in their 20s and 30s were ticketed \$76 each for being at the Summit lookout at 12:58 am June 18, Public Security officials said. One who was found in possession of alcohol was described as "arrogant." They were residents of Verdun, east-end Montreal and St. Barthélemy in the Lanaudière region.

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Squadron being re-activated in Cold Lake

‘Sons of 401’ witness departure of colours from city hall

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

“Descendants” of 401 (City of Westmount) Squadron were among those attending a ceremony at city hall June 23 to turn over the colours of the disbanded unit to representatives from the air force base at Cold Lake, Alberta.

This is where the squadron is to be re-activated June 30 as 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron.

“The 401 will live again,” Mayor Peter Trent said before ceremonially handing

over the standard to the Cold Lake colour party. “The colours will fly again as a fighter squadron.”

The squadron’s colours had been preserved on display at city hall after the unit was disbanded in 1996. It had been based in Westmount since its formation in 1934 (see story June 23, p. 18).



The colours standard of the 401 squadron.

Captain Dominic Dion of Cold Lake, told the *Independent* the squadron intends to maintain its close ties with the city. “The reason we’re here today is to maintain the connection with Westmount,” he said.

The re-activated squadron would be providing memorabilia and information on the squadron for the glass display case at city hall, he said. This is where the colours have been preserved since 1996.

The standard depicts the 401’s eight battle honours from World War II, starting with the Battle of Britain in 1940 where the

Canadian squadron was the only non-Royal Air Force participant. Centred on the standard is the 401’s badge described as a Rocky Mountain sheep’s head and motto “Very swift death for the enemy.”

The 401 descendants attending the retrieval of the



Discussing World War II photos from the 401 (City of Westmount) Squadron June 23 are from left: Mayor Peter Trent, Graham Nesbitt, John Norris, Councillor Victor Drury and Ted Sancton, who brought the photo album of his father (John Sancton) to the ceremony.

colours included Ted Sancton (son of 401 intelligence officer John Sancton), John Norris (son of Herbert Norris, the 401’s adjutant and later wing commander) and Graham Nesbitt (nephew of 401 fighter pilot Deane Nesbitt who fought during the Battle of Britain and later commanded 401 and became a group captain).

Councillor Victor Drury, also at the event, is the son and grandson of two 401 members. His father, Charles M. “Bud” Drury, was a flying officer with the 401 before serving with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He was later Westmount’s MP and federal cabinet minister. Victor’s grandfa-

ther and namesake, Victor M. Drury, was the 401’s honorary wing commander (colonel) from 1939 to 1940.

Among others at the ceremony were Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau and Stephen Gregory, president of the Quebec branch of Canada Company, which supports men and women in uniform and their families, Councillor Patrick Martin and Doreen Lindsay, president of the Westmount Historical Association.

Those coming from the Cold Lake base were Dion, Warrant Officer Warren Platzer, Sgt. Mike Pourier and Sgt. Jason Hemley.

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Police Report

St. Catherine St.
merchant robbed

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 25-year-old man was caught on video surveillance robbing a St. Catherine St. merchant at gunpoint in the late afternoon of June 23, according to a police report.

The suspect, described as a thin white male approximately 5'8" tall with brown hair, entered the store near the corner of Greene just after 5:45 pm. He reportedly approached the cash, pulled out a firearm and demanded the employee hand over the money from the register, startling her.

The employee couldn't provide any details about the firearm, possibly indicating that it was a replica, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel.

"When you're a victim in this type of situation you don't try to decipher if it's real or not. You take it that it is a live weapon and act accordingly. You don't jeopardize

your safety," he said.

Complying with the demands, the cash register was emptied and the money handed over to the suspect, who was dismayed at the small amount, the employee told police.

It is police policy to not publicly reveal the amount stolen in armed robberies. However, Pimentel said it was "small amount" and that merchants limiting the money they keep in registers is an effective way to "discourage" potential thieves.

"In the past, it was not uncommon to see cashes with \$1,000 floats. Now what you see more and more is floats of a lot less than that. It could be a hundred [dollars], it could be two, depending on the type of business you're running," he said.

The suspect took the money, left through the front door and fled north on Greene. He was reportedly captured on a nearby high-definition video surveillance system staking out the shop before entering and then while fleeing.

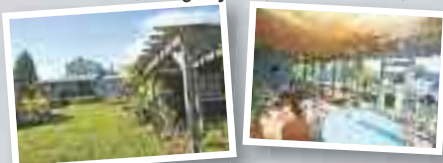
With the surveillance footage, Pimentel was highly confident police would eventually be able to apprehend the suspect.

"It's not a question of 'if.' It's usually a question of 'when,'" he said.

Boom truck ordered
off bike path

Window washers were found using a large boom truck parked on the bike path outside the apartment complex at 4300 de Maisonneuve June 16, Public Security officials said. Officers were called at 9:18 am by Public Works, which stated the workers had only been given permission to set up the crane on Redfern. They were ordered to remove it. The truck was obstructing use of the bike path.

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For real estate transfers, please see paper copy.

MUHC class action cont'd. from p. 1

to obtain status as a class,” Felgar said. “It will also assist in determining the appropriate perimeters for others to be included.”

This territory was initially presented in court documents as between St. Catherine/de Maisonneuve and Côte St. Antoine,

and from Marlowe in NDG east to Lansdowne (see story May 19, p. 1).

Now, however, the perimeters have widened west-east from Prud’homme to Park Place, he explained.

Westmount District 5 councillor Christina Smith has said that more com-

plaints are being received from Westmount residents now that they are outside more and have windows open in the warmer weather.

Sylvestre said the perimeters would now have to be amended. Residents within the perimeter area would automatically be in-

cluded in the class action should it be authorized by the court. Numbers who register now, however, could make a difference in determining whether or not the class action suit will go ahead.



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TRENDSSETTERS

JOANNE LEOPOLD

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

When covering the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation gala, I noticed Joanne Leopold with her husband John, the foundation's board vice chair. Her sequined black gown had fabulous fuchsia satin brightly peeking out. She told me how excited she was about the arrival of Saturday Night Live's Dennis Miller, who is to be the star celeb at the upcoming event for Hope & Cope, founded and chaired by her mother Sheila Kussner.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

My personal style is classic and comfortable with a strong passion for accent pieces. I often wear bright colours on top, and add accessories like fabulous scarves and interesting jewelry. I simply love leopard! Over the years, it has become a large part of my wardrobe. I wear a lot of pants with great jackets and underneath I choose

fabrics like lace or velvet to give a feminine touch. For more formal events, I enjoy looking elegant with a fun-filled spirit, which explains the sequins and shimmering effect of some beading on outfits I choose to wear.

What is your favourite way of dressing?

When I'm not attending a special event or important meeting, I love dressing casual but chic.

On week-ends, what do you like to wear?

On weekends, I love nothing more than a comfy pair of leggings with some detailing such as leather, zippers or simple stitching, pants or Lululemons with a coloured blouse or sweater. I often try to match my trademark pink lipstick with jewelry.

I noticed your beautiful gown at the gala for the Montreal Children's Hospital. Do you like the glamour?

My husband and I have attended many balls over the years because each one has represented a worthy cause about which we felt passionate and wanted to support.

I love dressing elegantly, and if I appear glamorous on these occasions, it's with the hope that this sparkle will permeate a wonderful mood and fun feeling to the evening.

You are also busy bringing up your family. Running around doing errands, what do you like to wear?

Again, I must feel comfortable, and I always dress casually.

Hope & Cope has an upcoming special event on with celebrity Dennis Miller at Place des Arts. What do you plan to wear?

Black silk pants with an animal print, and a sequined black-and-white jacket.



Joanne Leopold in her home, June 16.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world? Money no object.

London, England. I love it! It's a city so fascinating, worldly and rich in culture and diversity.

What is your favourite flower? Do you have flowers in your home?

My favourite flowers are roses, and my

home is always filled with orchids, roses and fresh flowers.

Whom would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world and from any era?

My dinner party would be a group of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Barbra Streisand, Elton John, Golda Meir, Anne Frank and Nelson Mandela.



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March transfers: Still marking down

Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2015, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

The sale of 4 Belfrage Rd. for \$4,450,000 and three more sales over \$2 million highlighted the list of real estate transfers in March this year, when 10 single-family dwellings sold for an average \$1,894,000, one of the highest monthly averages in Westmount's history, but actually three percent less than their municipal evaluations.

The Belfrage sale is the highest in Westmount since last July, when 4299 Montrose Ave. changed hands for \$6,700,000 and 332 Metcalfe Ave. went for \$4,495,000. Since then, the highest registered price had been January's \$3,998,000 sale of 65 Forden Cresc. There are indications that other high prices are to follow.

The trouble is that many of these high-priced sales are trading for well under the city's tax value. Not only did 4 Belfrage sell for almost 12 percent below valuation, an-



Photographed June 24, 46 Summit Cresc. had the biggest municipal mark-down of 30 percent in March.

other above-The-Boulevard mansion at 46 Summit Cresc. changed hands for only \$2,400,000 while the city pegged a value of \$3,450,000. It had been on the market almost two years before an offer was accepted, with a 30 percent mark-down.

The lowest price of \$611,627 (apparently the subject of post-building-inspection negotiation) for 4828 St. Catherine St., which is located at the end of the row of townhouses in front of the Westmount railway station, was also slightly under valuation.

Highest mark-up on Oakland

The highest mark-up involved 59 Oakland Ave., 28 percent, but that (and other modest mark-ups) was not enough to pull the average over parity. For the first quarter of 2015, then, Westmount homes are selling for 99 percent of municipal valuation, despite a somewhat encouraging February figure.

Four condominiums are included in the March sales list, with one more sale of a unit at 1250 Greene Ave., bringing the top price of just under \$2.4 million, not the cheapest apartment in the building but by no means the most expensive.

With only one mark-up among the four

Fence work stopped at St. George's

Work to install a fence at St. George's school on The Boulevard was stopped June 20, a Saturday, at 10:50 am, Public Security officials said. A generator was found in use, contravening the city's regulations that prohibit heavy equipment on the weekends.

condo sales in March, the average mark-up stayed just below parity, as with the home sales. For the year-to-date the same is true: of eight condo sales only two came above valuation and the average mark-down is three percent.

As we mentioned last month, the 2017 municipal evaluation roll will be established on the basis of market conditions of this summer, and indications so far (both for homes and condos) are that there will not be much of an increase.

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AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP

Hello and bonjour to my loyal design fiends and friends. The chronicle today will be a bit divergent from our usual diva approach due to my dear Aurélien's recent

stay at the imposing and excellent Jewish General Hospital.

Now, dear readers, do not be too alarmed! As Aurel keeps reminding himself and others nearby: "It's only carpentry. Plumbing is messier and more complicated!" To clarify, those who have seen him wandering around in those design areas of our currently bucolic Montreal can easily notice his cane (electric blue – never a funeral black) and his wonky limp.

Recently, he spent eight days having expert carpentry on a 12-year-old titanium knee with a newer version. Consequently, he and I will share our experiences there with you lucky readers so that you and your friends can avoid unnecessary stress and discomfort when (god forbid) you are summoned to endure a hospital stay.

Here are necessary items to accompany you:

- A small 4x5" spiral notebook and a good ballpoint pen as an *aide mémoire*. This will help you remember pill times, thoughts of people you must write to after the ordeal and a list of the nurses who deserve a good box of chocolates as a thank-you for kindness beyond the usual.

- Your iPhone with those earbuds. Do download your favourite music and include both dreamy and meditative pieces, as well as some upbeat and jazzy sounds. Aurel is especially fond of Eric Satie piano. Include Chopin's nocturnes too.

- Lightweight books or Kindle pads with your favourite reading, especially some long novel you have been postponing. Aurel really enjoyed Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*: Fantastic images and witty, touching incidents on all aspects of love – some that even Aurel had not imagined!

- A couple of cotton large men's bandannas in your favourite bright colours. These can be used as a neck scarf against a draft or used as a perk-me-up to the drab

hospital gowns. Aurel found that they were good bibs against drips from eating in bed. Usually eating in bed has very sensual connotations, but after a week, the charm has worn.

- Related to sleeping, a sleep mask from a long flight came in handy, and also those ear stopples or if you can splurge – the

new noise-cancelling headset. Fortunately, our usual home night-time is never as noisy as the beeping and clanging in the halls – and too often the night nurse will leave your door wide open.

- On a more personal level, think about some lavender massage oil for your forehead and

continued on p. 22

De-crowned



A dead elm comes down limb by limb the morning of June 19 in King George (Murray) Park. See "Trees succumb to disease," June 2, p. 6.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Lovely Layla

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JANE DAVEY

No one can dispute the loveliness of this purebred doberman pinscher, but she's featured in our column today for two reasons: She has a medical condition (though



its low maintenance) and her breed still makes some people nervous.

According to Wikipedia, "dobies are often unfairly stereotyped as being ferocious and aggressive. In the past, greater forcefulness served the dog well in its role as a personal defence dog, police dog or war dog, but were not ideally adapted to a companionship role. Its aggression has been toned down by modern breeders over the years, and today's dobermans are known

for a much more even and good natured temperament, extreme loyalty, high intelligence and great trainability. And the breed attracts those who like its size and short coat."

Layla, who's around 6 years old, is described as gentle and sweet natured. She is house-trained, spayed, up to date in her vaccines and heartworm tested negative. And as a bonus, she likes car rides!

She has a thyroid condition that is controlled with a daily pill. The medication is

inexpensive and easy to administer, but consistency in this department is an absolute must for any potential adopter.

Layla's new companion(s) must be at ease with handling big dogs in general. This girl does have an inconvenient penchant for squirrel chasing if given the chance, which also means her new residence must be devoid of any kind of small, fun-to-chase animals, including cats.

Her ideal home would be of the quiet, regular routine variety with older dog-savvy children only. A fenced-in yard would be an awesome plus.

If Layla is lovely to you, please contact Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at info@gerdysrescue.org or 514.203.9180.

Update on Tina, cocker spaniel mix

A testament to the power of love: We've had an update on Tina ("Tina the Trooper," May 26, p. 20), who has apparently undergone a complete transformation from anxious puppy-mill survivor to all-around amazing and well adjusted canine. She is still looking for a home and is being sheltered at Frontier Animal Society.

Owner claims black lab

An unidentified black Lab was found running loose June 17 at Claremont and Windsor at 6:30 pm, according to Public Security officials. The dog was taken to the station and kept until a resident of Chesterfield called looking for it. When the dog was picked up at 7 pm, the owner explained the dog's licence tag had been lost but another would be obtained.

Dog thwarts bike theft

A dog was credited June 18 with scaring away a man trying to cut the lock on a bicycle on the porch of a house on Claremont, Public Security officials said. The owner claimed to have seen the man ride off on a white bicycle when the dog barked around 5:21 pm. The area was searched but no one could be found matching the description of the would-be thief. He was described as aged about 25 and "skinny."

3 barking dogs generate \$76 ticket

A resident of Redfern was reported to have been issued a ticket when neighbours complained about barking dogs June 21. Public Security officials said patrollers found three dogs at the back of the home running in and out of a door that had been left open though no residents were home. Officers closed the door and later followed up to tell the resident a \$76 ticket would be issued. It was the second complaint that had been received about the dogs since June 14, they said.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Outdoor play for ages 5 and up, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, 2 pm in Westmount Park. Game of croquet and a Mad Hatter tea to follow. Costumes encouraged. Register: 514.989.5229.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Speaker Janie Respitz, Yiddish music educator and singer "with a song and a story about a modern troubadour: itzik manger," 12 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Cost: \$5 at the door. Lecture followed by lunch. Reserve by July 10. 514.937.9474, ext 139.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

A group exhibition at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until August 8. Artists include Harvey Corn, Pascale Delhay, Pierre Lessard, Loran, Oriana Pizzingrilli, Eliane Rivard and Andrew Stringer.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

"Play in the garden" for children 7 years and older with Amy Creighton. Participants can learn to create tiny gardens that they can bring home. 4 pm in the storytelling garden. Register: 514.989.5229.

JULY SHAKESPEARE

Repercussion Theatre presents Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night (or What You Will)* Saturday, July 11; Sunday, July 12; Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26 in Westmount Park at 7 pm. Westmount actors include Adam Capriolo, Gitanjali Jain and Matthew Kabwe. Westmounter Emily Skahan is to handle Repercussion's sales and marketing. Suggested donation \$10 per person over 12 years.

JULY AND AUGUST MUSIC

Summer concerts at the gazebo in Westmount Park: July 5, 12, 19 and 26, and August 2 and 9. Jazz, classical and other musical concerts on these Sunday afternoons in Westmount Park. Free.

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'Genie' among images at gallery launch



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Paul Belmondo and Jeanne Moreau, from the French *nouvelle vague* film sets; **Dominic Tarlé's** 1971 casual shot of Jagger and Keith Richards sitting around a table; and 1990s shots of top black models in Paris by **Thierry Le Gouès**.

Aura owner and artist **Sergio Veranes** was there with his wife **Svetlana** and daughter **Tais**. Veranes, who worked in New York and Paris for many years, showed some of his own photography, recently showed at the Contemporary Art Museum in Panama.

The balance of vintage and modern work attracted many local res including journalist/blogger **Richard Burnett**, sisters **Nissa** and **Jenni Khan**, **Melanie Schirmer**, **Susan Alper**, **Avi Markovitch** and **Gary Brodtkin** as well as former residents **Barbara Sabbath** and **Roslyn Takeishi** with **Réal Désfossés**.

Westmounter **Eugenie Bouchard's** photograph starred with other celebrities on May 20 at the Galerie Aura vernissage.

Photos of internationally renowned names, such as Mick Jagger, Norma Jean (before she was Marilyn Monroe), Jean Seberg and Serge Gainsborough attracted an SRO crowd, as did those of "Genie" (Bouchard) and **P.K. Subban** shot by photographer **Carl Lessard**. Many of the gallery's collectable vintage black-and-white images recalled another era; **Raymond Cauchetier's** moving photos of Jean



Sergio, left, and Svetlana Veranes.

Also noted were *Gazette* art critic **John Pohl**, **Bernard Lévy**, editor in chief *Vie des arts*, **Diane Duhamel** (city of Montreal), Global TV's **Gloria Henriquez** and dating expert **Cheryl Besner** (CJAD) as were photographer **Gérald Livin**, whose massive rock photos communicated great calm, and lawyer **Vincent Prager**, **Marie-Claude Savard**, **Marie-Hélène Hivon** and **Céline** and **Jacques Lamarre**.

More photos, p. 22.



From left: Susan Alper, Gary Brodtkin and Barbara Sabbath.

Leaf blowers bring \$270 tickets

A month after an extension for the use of leaf blowers expired May 9, complaints and tickets for \$270 continue to be reported, Public Security officials said last week. One contractor on Kensington was ordered to clean up debris he had blown on the street, though he had not been seen using the blower at 7:50 pm. Another on Rosemount the same day, however, was given a ticket at 10:15 am following another complaint. When a complaint was checked out on Westmount Ave. June 10, no one was on the scene. A contractor was ticketed the next day, however, when caught in action on Chesterfield at 12:56 pm.

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Crossing paths with Pacino



On June 7, Westmounters Linda Smith, left, and Barry Garber, right, were among the hundreds of guests at a Place des Arts event with actor Al Pacino. The evening featured a presentation of Pacino's films and an interview with Sonia Benezra. Garber is Benezra's agent. "Al Pacino is such a nice guy!" said Smith.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave



Richard Burnett, left, and Vincent Prager.



Roslyn Takeishi, left, and Réal Défosses.

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Adelstein named to John Molson School of Business

Concordia recently named Westmounter Greg Adelstein as "entrepreneur-in-residence" at the university's John Molson School of Business (JMSB).

Adelstein is co-founder and president of iGotcha Media, developers of digital signage solutions. "I am very pleased about this new challenge at Concordia's JMSB, and I look forward to working with student entrepreneurs," said Adelstein. – VR

Rafman exhibits at Musée d'art contemporain

Westmounter Jon Rafman has an exhibit at the Musée d'art contemporain (MAC) featuring screen captures of Google street views. At the show, he uses video to explore the internet, using material from "Second Life" web world, memes, and dancing cats. "Technology is changing our consciousness with the internet's constant blur of images. What is virtual and what is real?" The exhibit runs until September 13. – VR

Colourfully yours cont'd. from p. 18

feet. Aromatherapy can really help soothe jangled nerves. A close friend offering to help you can be inveigled to give a foot rub.

• A best comfort companion for your hospital stay? Your favourite feather pillow in a silky pima Peruvian cotton pillowcase. It will help you forget all that poly/plastic that you are having to sleep on.

• A final thought: "real coffee" or your own favourite leaf tea in those tin perforated steeping devices will aid your contentment and help your patience – since everyone will tell you to relax and "go with the flow." There were rumours that certain visitors did arrive with a mysterious pewter

hip flask though no such contraband has been confirmed. Perhaps it was merely wishful thinking!

So, dear readers, I do hope that Aurel's ordeal and my careful reportage can aide someone dear to you – and may the reason for their hospital visit be merely for a short stay of minor "carpentry."

We will return soon to our usual design and decorating focus with some more news of what's percolating in our fair city. Keep those comments and sources coming to Aurélien's email aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com.

Colourfully yours, Greta von Schmedlapp.



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