

Cutler announces pilot project

Bike routes on Côte Rd., Westmount to work in tandem

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two new cycling routes were approved by city council August 3 as a pilot project for the remainder of the year. An east-bound route on Westmount Ave. is to work in tandem with a westbound one on Côte St. Antoine, both operating between Claremont and Argyle.

The trial will require line painting only and is expected to be in place as soon as possible in September once water main

work on Westmount Ave. is over, Councilor Philip Cutler announced.

"We want to test it out this year to see what the feedback is and speak with residents," he explained, "so if we want something more permanent, we'll have at least a few months of data to fall back on."

The routes are generally aimed at commuters cycling downtown and back.

The plan is for a single lane, 1.8 meters-wide on the south side of Westmount Ave. between the curb and parking.

On Côte St. Antoine, however, a similar single lane will run along the north side. This will shift parking to the south side, a change adopted by council during the meeting.

It is timed to provide the city with an opportunity to

continued on p. 8

Westmount's NHL team?



Several NHL players gathered at the Westmount recreation centre August 6. From left: Players Jakub Voracek (Philadelphia Flyers) and Jiri Hudler (Calgary Flames), Westmounter Emile Murciano, and players Kris Letang (Pittsburgh Penguins) and Antoine Laganiere, who competes in the AHL for the Anaheim Ducks' farm team, the Norfolk Admirals. Murciano saw the players preparing to go on the ice as he was leaving. "They were playing a friendly game with some Westmount residents. I couldn't tell you who organized or why they were there. Great to see some of the best players in the world appreciating our new facility," he said.

Photo courtesy of Emile Murciano



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Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 14

Dog run work under way, city pegs cost at \$124K

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work began August 7 for creation of the new dog run and bike path realignment in Westmount Park just after city council August 3 approved an additional \$70,000 for the dog run. This is being relocated after closure of the site at Lansdowne and St. Catherine.

The new allocation brings the total amount forecast for the new dog run to \$124,000 after tax rebates, according to fig-

ures provided by the city August 5 (see table, p. 4).

A dozen medium-sized trees on the periphery of the new run, but not within the site, were cut down August 5 (see story, p. 4). Excavation work began two days later.

The newly authorized amount covers "additional civil work" to some already authorized – in all, demolition, excavation, electrical, water and drainage work as well as specialized material for 18 inches of the dog run

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Tom Hopkins
La source, 60 x 54 – Oil on canvas, 2001

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Martin St-Jean seeks 'new challenges'

Prosecutor at 'Charbonneau' named new city clerk

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A veteran lawyer specializing latterly in municipal affairs was appointed by city council August 3 to the position of city clerk and director of Legal Services. He starts work with the city September 8 as a permanent employee.

Martin St-Jean has been a member of the city of Montreal's litigation team for more than five years and was Montreal prosecutor at the Charbonneau inquiry into the management and awarding of public contracts in the construction industry.

A resident of Beaconsfield and fluently bilingual, he has also been teaching with the Quebec Bar, training young candidates for their professional exams.

Introduced and welcomed at the city council meeting, St-Jean told the *Independent* he was looking forward to "new challenges" in Westmount and working in a position where he would have an opportunity to work closely with the public.

He said his work at the Charbonneau Commission "completely changed" his perspective, generated a desire to work in city management and practice "in close

proximity to the stakeholders and end-users."

Before joining the legal department of the city of Montreal in 2010, St-Jean worked in civil and business litigation with the firm of Belleau Lapointe and before that, in labour law with Fraser, Milner, Casgrain.

He obtained his law degree in 1997 from the University of Ottawa after undergraduate degrees in education in 1995 and social sciences (history and political science) in 1990.

In heading the city's legal services, St-Jean will oversee the management of the department with assistant city clerk Nicole Dobbie in a wide number of areas that include council meetings, legislation, legal affairs, information, records, claims and municipal elections.

"One of the reasons the city clerk position is unique," explains Mayor Peter Trent, "is because the clerk works with both city council and the administration – and needs a certain dexterity to do so."

The position has been vacant since the departure in January of Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza, who had been hired by the city on a two-year contract.



Martin St-Jean, left, is welcomed to Westmount at the city council meeting August 3 by Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Christina Smith, commissioner of Administration, along with other members of council.

Comin Bergonzi's contract extended

Chiasson joins city clerk's office as new archivist

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In addition to naming a new city clerk, city council August 3 completed the staffing of the Legal Services department by naming Anthony Chiasson as the new city archivist. It also extended the six-month contract of Cassandra Comin Bergonzi as manager, legal support, for a similar period.

Chiasson, who becomes division chief, documentation and archives management, on a permanent basis, replaces Morgannis Graham, who announced last month she would be leaving to study for her doctorate in digital imaging (see story June 9, p. 6).

He holds a PhD in history from the University of Montreal and studied for his master's degree at the universities of Mont-



Mayor Peter Trent congratulates Anthony Chiasson August 3 on his appointment as city archivist.

real and Poitiers, France. Chiasson has been working as a historian-archivist consultant, which involved historical research, genealogy and technical services such as the construction of websites.

He has held a number of positions including archivist for the Quebec Federation of Medical Specialists, the *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* in Calgary, the universities of Montreal and Moncton, as well as Radio Canada.

Other council news, p. 1 and 8.

New treasurer appointed on approach of 2016 budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

On the approach of the city's work to prepare the 2016 budget, city council named Julie Mandeville to the vacant position of treasurer and Finance director, effective September 14.

No stranger to the municipal scene, Mandeville has been city treasurer for both Montreal West and Beaconsfield, and served a stint early in her career as assistant treasurer for the Town of Mount Royal.

She is currently director of financial services for the Lester B. Pearson school board, where she is reported to have reorganized the department to improve flexi-

bility, productivity and customer service.

"Unfortunately, she is not with us tonight," said Councillor Victor Drury, commissioner of Finance, in moving the resolution to appoint Mandeville on a permanent basis.

The position has been filled in an interim capacity by Human Resources director Jocelyne Dragon following the resignation of former Westmount treasurer Annette Dupras May 4 (see story May 26, p. 4).

Mandeville obtained a commerce degree from McGill in 1995 and has held other financial management positions in businesses that include Yellow Pages, Rolls Royce Canada and Sun Life Financial.

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Dog run project entwined with bike path

Costs attributed directly to new dog run

Item	Cost (\$)
Demolition of bike path that passes through dog run site	3,360
Demolition of pedestrian path section that passes through dog run site	4,972
Relocation of lamp standards	1,000
Electrical conduits for lap base relocation	1,240
Excavation of dog run site	22,425
Dog run material, 18" thick	35,700
Perimeter fencing with entrances	26,820
Water connection for fountain	5,500
Construction subtotal	101,017
Consultants' fees at Aug. 5	16,880
Total before taxes	117,897
Taxes after rebate, 5%	5,985
Total cost to city	123,792

Source: Office of the city director general

cont'd. from p. 1

surface (\$35,000 plus). Detailed estimates confirmed to the *Independent* August 5 by director general Mike Deegan include professional fees and a previously approved "quality" fence. The total could reach closer to \$150,000, however, if a couple of "debatable costs" are attributed to the dog run, states Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works. "It's getting expensive," he said. "It depends on one's perspective and what you include," explains Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability. "Some of the work we're doing now, such as landscaping and lighting, was left over from construction of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and had to be completed anyway." The city is also upgrading the dog run to include "quality fencing" and the ground material, she said. "When we replaced the tennis courts at a cost of \$300,000 after construction of the WRC, we upgraded their quality for tennis players," Lulham points out. "We're doing the same thing for this user group [dog owners] in relocating the dog run as promised."

Costs requested at meeting

The cost of the dog run was raised at the council meeting when the newly authorized \$70,000 was added to a previous omnibus contract for work on all "sidewalks and pathways at various locations in the city." This made the amounts attributed to the dog run somewhat confusing for those in the audience. "What is the final cost of the dog run?" Paul Marriott, co-president of the Westmount Municipal Association, asked repeatedly during the question period. Mayor Peter Trent answered that the cost of about \$100,000 was "on budget."



These stumps are all that remained at 5:30 pm August 5 shortly after trees were cut down in Westmount Park between the current bike path (on the left) and the tennis courts (to the right). A total of 12 had been identified to be removed from the area to make way for the reconfiguration of the new bike path (see story p. 5). Inset: How the site looked October 3, 2014.

While this is double the amount specified in a council resolution October 6, 2014, calling for the city to "invest" \$50,000 in the dog run project, the lower amount was based on a location adjacent to the tennis courts that piggybacked on their lighting and fencing. Since then, the site has been shifted further north and the city decided to experiment with a new type of dog run material, Lulham explains. This is "kinder" to human feet and canine paws than the pea gravel currently used in the city's other dog run, adding a cost of some \$35,000. If the material proves successful, it is to be used in the dog runs at King George (Murray) Park and the Westmount Ath-

letic Grounds, she said. Two additional items Martin believes should be included in the cost of the dog run are a foot path across the WRC roof and additional excavation outside the dog run. This results from the sloping topography, which has to be levelled to provide for a maximum 4-degree incline for a dog run. These items plus additional consultants' fees total some \$24,000 after tax rebates, he says. On the other hand, all the consultants' design fees related to the bike and pedestrian paths have been folded into the dog run project, indicating just how entwined the projects have become.



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Excavation begins in park



Excavation began August 7 in Westmount Park just south of the lagoon and east of Westmount Park Church as part of the dog run and bike path projects (see "Dog run under way," story, p. 1). Heavy equipment, above, maneuvered between the trees to prepare the first of some 80 truckloads of earth, rock and other debris. The bike path is expected to remain open for the first two or three weeks.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Crabapples, pear trees to be replaced in park tree removal

Plans for the dog run do not call for the removal of any trees within the run of 8,000 square feet itself, according to city director general Mike Deegan. "No chestnut, maple or ginkgo trees will be cut."

To prepare for reconfiguration of the bike path, however, 12 medium-sized trees were identified to be felled (see photo p. 4).

Included in the dozen were six spruce, five crabapple (of which one was already dead), and a pear tree surrounded in concrete, he said. Another pear tree would be planted in the immediate area as well as other replacement crabapples.

An original plan was halted by city council when the bike path was shown to cut a swath through a number of large mature trees (see June 9, p. 1).

— LS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE SAQ EMPLOYEE THE PROBLEM

I wonder if the employee referred to in the letter from Marina Smithe's letter ("What 'kind' doesn't SAQ want in its store?" July 7, p. 6) is the same incredibly rude female employee who, a couple of years ago, launched into an embittered nasty screed accusing me of being a rich Westmount snob who made loads more money than she did.

I was so stunned that I complained about her utterly inappropriate behaviour to the manager. Then mysteriously, and thankfully, the employee was no longer working at the SAQ in Victoria village. However, just as mysteriously, she reappeared about a year or so ago again employed by that branch.

Maybe the SAQ cannot, and will not, fire a well-paid unionized cashier regardless of their unstable and aggressive behaviour?

For the record, I have found every other employee in that store to be courteous, bilingual and friendly.

CHERYL ANN BUCKLEY, ACADEMY RD.

SOME SAQS FRIENDLIER THAN OTHERS

Regarding the letter "What 'kind' doesn't SAQ want in its store?" (July 7, p. 6), the experience that Marina Smithe's mother had in the SAQ's store in the Victoria village is extreme, but is in keeping with their seeming policy of unfriendliness and rudeness that they have displayed since they changed locations with Hogg a few years ago. You may remember that they didn't want to give houseroom to the *Indie* because it is an English-language paper. They have always made it plain that they do not want to speak English.

I never found the employees friendly in either language. Recently, I went into the store for the first time in years. The cashier served me in a friendly manner, but that was not the overall atmosphere.

Money talks and if enough dissatisfied customers took their business elsewhere, it would have an effect. That, sadly, will never happen. The location is too good and some people are not able to get to other outlets. I also know a few people who have no problem with that store.

I have been shopping mostly at the out-

let near Atwater market. The employees are friendly, interested and at times proactively helpful. A smile or a "*bonjour*" almost always greets the shopper. It is just a much nicer environment, and that is where I prefer to spend my dollars. I have interaction with the staff, which seems really interested in my requests. A few years ago, I requested a wine that, at the time, was a best-kept secret, it seemed. The employee was interested in it and was apologetic that they did not stock it. He looked it up on the computer and told me which outlets carried it and had it in stock. I noticed soon after they started to have large displays of this great sparkling wine.

Having very recently returned from England and France, where everyone in the service industry seems pleased to see anyone who enters their establishment, I found returning to shopping here a sad let-down. So often, bored looking employees are chatting with their co-workers with not even a nod of acknowledgement – a pity in any language.

HONOR BARRETT, KENSINGTON AVE.

TIME TO PRIVATIZE SAQ

I wish to begin by thanking Marina Smithe for sharing her story with us ("What 'kind' doesn't SAQ want in its store?" p. 6) in the July 7 publication, regarding an experience at the SAQ.

It is lucky that I have never had this experience, because I would've blown my top. This should have never happened.

I think it is high time that we privatize the SAQ. We will have a friendlier environment, we will have more choice, better prices, and especially a service honouring the multicultural world we live in.

If I didn't speak a few languages, I would have never been able to build an international business that profits this province.

I never had friends or associated with anyone who grew up in a box.

GERHARD JACOB, OLIVIER AVE.

SAQ, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Referring to Marina Smithe's letter ("What 'kind' doesn't SAQ want in its store?" July 7, p. 6) describing her mother's emotional and verbal abuse at a Sherbrooke St. SAQ, I plead guilty to the sin of omission. I have looked the other way for years. The ugly truth is if you are other than francophone and shop there, the hostility is always present, with a few exceptions of helpful staff.

The cashier mentioned in the letter will never speak one word of English to you no matter how polite or bilingual you may be. How shall we ever live without blind

SAQ RESPONDS

We have read the published letter ("What 'kind' doesn't SAQ want in its store?" July 7, p. 6) in which a customer of the Westmount SAQ store claims to have had an altercation with one of our employees recently. We want to reassure the author of the letter and all our customers.

It goes without saying that, at the SAQ, we hope above all to transmit to customers our enthusiasm for our products. Under no circumstances may our customer service standards be lowered for any reason whatsoever and even less so for language issues. If the SAQ has succeeded in building a reputation as a genuine destination for discovery, it is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of its thousands of employees.

We will ensure that, in keeping with your expectations, this is the case at the Westmount SAQ and elsewhere in Quebec.

JEAN-VINCENT LACROIX,

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS,

SOCIÉTÉ DES ALCOOLS DU QUÉBEC

hatred undermining peaceful co-existence? I, for one, will never spend another moment or penny in this store and urge others to do the same. The SAQ should have more savvy and respect for its customers and the service required for the huge sums of money they collect on our taxes. Just go to Ontario or the US to know how fleeced we are. The sad reality is this renewed and tiresome return to the old language issue, driving out valued citizens like Marina Smithe's mother and businesses, and keeping out those who would

continued on p. 12

Correction

The views of Prospect resident Michael Polak on the proposed sound barrier in relation to the August 4 story ("Residents unhappy with sound barrier proposals," p. 1) are: "My personal view is that the trains pose a greater imposition than do the cars on the highway, and therefore I am in favour of a sound barrier close by the tracks. We are looking for a united position of all Prospect St. residents to come up with a structure that shall be as unobtrusive and aesthetically pleasing as possible given the circumstances." The views stated in the article "A lot of issues would be addressed by placing it on the highway," were in fact those expressed by Michael Hannen of Hallowell St. We regret the error.

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Police Report

Telephone fraud scams popping up in Westmount

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 pair of infamous telephone fraud schemes has made its way to Westmount, with at least three residents falling victim to scammers between July 30 and August 4, according to Station 12 reports.

Predominantly targeted at senior citizens, the schemes fall into two categories: scammers pose as a Revenue Canada employee demanding payment and in the other, they claim to be a relative, often a grandson or nephew, needing emergency financial aid.

“They get their names from the registries of various homes, like the Manoir or Le Chateau. Most people know if you’re in those types of homes, you’re most likely elderly,” explained Station 12 constable

Stephan Laperriere, who said both schemes generally target approximately \$2,000.

When posing as Revenue Canada representatives, the scammer threatens to impose harsh fines if the alleged outstanding balance isn’t paid immediately. Laperriere said there is a sure-fire way to see through the attempted scam: Revenue Canada doesn’t contact individuals via phone for payment.

“This is something Revenue Canada never does. They’ll never phone you at home to say you owe them money. They get in touch through letters,” he said.

In the other scheme, the scammer attempts to pray on the emotions of the victim, claiming to be a young relative who needs immediate funds, often under the guise of bail payment after being arrested for drunk driving, said Laperriere.

“They say [to the victim], ‘My lawyer is going to call you. He’ll tell you how to get him the money so I can get out of jail,’” he

explained.

“A lot of the time, the people don’t question if it’s really their grandson calling. They don’t confront them like they should. Ask them, ‘Why does your voice sound different?’ or ‘What’s your mother’s maiden name?’”

A resident in Ville Marie, which falls under Station 12’s jurisdiction, also fell victim and at least seven individuals have

contacted the station after recognizing the attempted scam attempt.

Laperriere recommended that if residents receive the call, they should hang up, note the time and date, and dial *57 to place a trace on the last incoming number. When informed of the scam attempt, police can obtain a warrant to have the telephone provider release the details of the traced call to help with the investigation.

Alberta man ‘rescued’ from sleeping bag in heat wave

During a prolonged heat wave July 30, a Public Security patroller was alerted at 6:23 am that a man in a sleeping bag under the Ville Marie expressway had not moved for several hours and was perhaps deceased. Department officials said the officer found the man along with a number of beer bottles just under the highway west of Hallowell. He was believed to have passed out, was “awakened,” given water and said he would go to McDonald’s. He was described as “a drifter” from Medicine Hat, Alberta. The officer had been alerted by a homeless man concerned about the other’s well-being.

Cyclist flips over handlebars, taken to hospital

A public safety officer discovered an injured cyclist walking with his bike at York and St. Catherine at 2:49 pm August 1, Public Security officials said. She provided first aid to the young man for cuts and bruises and called Urgences Santé. It would appear that part of the cyclist’s clothing had caught in the braking mechanism causing him to flip over the handle bars. It was not known whether he was wearing a helmet. He was taken to hospital by ambulance to check out a sore shoulder.



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Help to renew water, sewer, road networks City to receive \$5.8M in gas tax subsidies over 5 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city received news just prior to the council meeting August 3 that its application for a \$5.8-million grant had been approved by the Quebec ministry of Municipal Affairs to renew water, sewer and road

infrastructure over five years 2014-2018.

"It's hot off the press," announced Councillor Patrick Martin, Public Works commissioner. "It's good news."

The grant is part of a renewed agreement in June 2014 between the governments of Canada and Quebec to distribute gas tax revenue among municipalities whose plans for infrastructure are approved by Quebec.

Westmount applied early and was one of the first municipalities to have its projects approved, according to Martin.

The city's plans involve the refurbishment of water mains, sewers and roads starting retroactively last year.

"I think it would be appropriate if I sent a letter of thanks to [Westmount provincial legislator Jacques] Chagnon," said Mayor Peter Trent. "It's a lot of money."



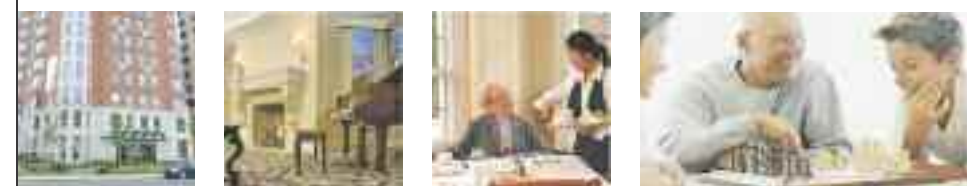
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City launches Heritage committee with new project manager

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The forming of a city Heritage committee took a step forward at the August 3 council meeting with the creation of a new position of project manager to oversee its work as part of the Urban Planning department.

Myriam St-Denis, an urban planner who specializes in the management of built and cultural heritage, was appointed to the role on a one-year contract starting September 8.

The committee will be looking at the preservation of heritage building interiors and updating building classifications, Councillor Theodora Samiotis explained in moving the appointment of St-Denis.

"This is the person who can help us in this regard," she added.

One of the projects already announced for the Heritage committee is a heritage assessment of Westmount's houses of worship (see story July 7, p. 4).

St-Denis, who attended the school of architecture at Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona in 2008 and 2009, obtained her master's degree in 2012 from the University of Montreal. She has worked on international development projects such as those involving Mexico, Guyana and Nicaragua.

She has also been involved in national and local work including projects involving the National Film Board, Old Montreal and the MUHC super-hospital.

Bike routes cont'd. from p. 1

assess aesthetics and impact before the reconstruction next year of Westmount Ave. from Claremont to Belmont.

North-south hills too steep

No north-south connector routes are planned, at least for now. Hills such as Grosvenor or Lansdowne are too steep, Cutler said. "We think everyone using Westmount Ave. will be going through to downtown, maybe getting to Atwater. Eventually we may look at other routes," he said.

The bike lanes would, he explained, provide a safer route for them and also serve to some degree as a traffic calming measure.

Asked if the one-way cycling traffic will be enforceable, he said "probably not" when it comes to cyclists riding downhill against traffic on Côte St. Antoine but "we didn't want to make it bi-directional." The painted lines and arrows will tend to reinforce the westerly direction, he added.

Interestingly, in terms of potential resident reaction, Cutler lives on the Westmount Ave. route and Mayor Peter Trent lives on the Côte Rd.'s north-side lane.

The pilot project is being introduced as part of the city's active transportation policy and emanates from the Master Traffic Plan, Cutler said. Members of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association have also been asking for the paths though none appeared to be at the meeting.

Cars collide

Two cars collided in heavy rain July 21 at Sherbrooke and Metcalfe, Public Security officials said. No injuries were reported but both the Buick and Chevy had to be towed due to major front-end damage. The accident was discovered at 11:57 am and officers called for police. Flares were set up because of the poor visibility.

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Exposition à l'hôtel de ville : les commerces de la rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Du 20 juin au 20 octobre 2015, foyer de l'hôtel de ville, 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. L'Association historique de Westmount présente des photographies récentes de Doreen Lindsay sur les commerces de la rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Gratuit. Info : 514 932-6688.

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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.

Club du cinéma d'été
Le mercredi 19 août à 14 h. Avez-vous une passion pour le cinéma ? Alors notre club de film d'été est tout à fait pour vous ! Joignez-vous à nous pour visionner **Blackmail, le premier film d'Alfred Hitchcock.** Gary Evans, professeur d'études cinématographiques – université d'Ottawa introduira le film. Une discussion sensuivra. Âges 13+. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5386.

Soirée de cinéma en plein air - Cinderella
Le vendredi 28 août à la tombée du jour. Venez regarder un film en famille sous le ciel étoilé au parc Westmount. Apportez vos chaises pliantes et couvertures! Info : 514-989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Mots et musique
Le dimanche 16 août, de 14 h à 16 h, Gazebo. Apportez votre chaise et votre pique-nique au parc Westmount pour un dimanche après-midi de musique et poésie. Info : 514 989-5226.

Prochaine séance du conseil le mardi 8 septembre



Soirée astronomie au belvédère
Le samedi 19 septembre, de 19 h 30 à 22 h au belvédère Summit. Joignez-vous aux membres de la Société royale d'astronomie du Canada afin d'observer les étoiles avec leurs puissants télescopes et apprenez-en plus sur les planètes! Info : 514 989-5226.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscription : activités automne et hiver
À compter du 9 juin. Inscrivez-vous en personne au CLW ou en ligne. Le répertoire des activités, distribué en début juin, est disponible au [westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info : 514 989-5353.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Vous partez en vacances ?
Contactez le Service de la sécurité publique de Westmount; des agents vérifieront la maison pendant votre absence. Info : 514 989-5222.

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Couvre-feu en vigueur dans tous les parcs
La Sécurité publique appliquera le couvre-feu dans tous les parcs (minuit - 5 h), avec des patrouilles supplémentaires au belvédère Summit et dans les parcs avoisinants pour contrer la consommation d'alcool / de drogue et le bruit. Info : 514 989-5222.

Chaleur extrême : se protéger
L'agence de la santé de Montréal conseille de passer quelques heures par jour dans un endroit frais, de boire beaucoup d'eau, sans attendre d'avoir soif et de réduire des efforts physiques. Consultez le www.santemontreal.qc.ca pour plus de détails.

CITY HALL

Exhibition at City Hall: Businesses on Sherbrooke Street West
From June 20 to October 20, 2015, City Hall lobby, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. The Westmount Historical Association presents recent photographs by Doreen Lindsay of the businesses on Sherbrooke Street West. Free. Info: 514 932-6688.

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TD Summer Reading Club 2015
From 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.

Summer Film Club
Wednesday, August 19, 2 p.m. Do you have a passion for film? If so, our Summer Film Club is for you! Join us to view **Alfred Hitchcock's first film, Blackmail.** Gary Evans, professor in Film Studies at the University of Ottawa will introduce the film and lead the discussion afterwards. Tickets required. Ages: 13+ Info: 514 989-5386.

Movie Night in the Park - Cinderella
Friday, August 28, at dusk. Come watch a fun family film under the stars in Westmount Park. Don't forget your lawn chair and blankets! Info: 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Words and Music
Sunday, August 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Gazebo. Bring a chair or picnic and listen to poetry & music Sunday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Westmount Park. Info: 514 989-5226.



Stargazing at the Summit Lookout
Saturday, September 19, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to observe the night skies through their telescopes. Learn about the planets and stars from knowledgeable astronomers. Info: 514 989-5226.

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, September 8

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration: fall & winter activities
From June 9. Sign up now in person at the WRC or online. The activities guide, distributed in early June, is available at [westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info: 514 989-5353.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Going on vacation?
Contact the Westmount Public Security Unit; officers will check on your property while you're away. Info: 514 989-5222.

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.

Curfew in effect in all parks
Public Security will enforce the curfew in all city parks (12 a.m. to 5 a.m.) with extra patrols, especially at Summit Lookout and the surrounding parks for any alcohol/drug consumption and noise issues. Info: 514 989-5222.



Extreme heat: protect yourself
The Montreal Health Agency recommends certain precautions particularly for those at risk, including spending a few hours a day in a cool and preferably air-conditioned space; drinking a lot of water without waiting to feel thirsty; and reducing one's level of physical exertion. Consult the Agency's website at www.santemontreal.qc.ca for more information.



11-15 Gladstone Ave.: The last vestige

History by the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

Most Westmounters probably do not even know where Gladstone Ave. is, but in fact it is one of the oldest streets in lower Westmount, which now has only one building – besides Le Gladstone Restaurant at the corner of St. Catherine St. – after suffering the ravages of Westmount's urban renewal program in the 1960s.

In the mid-19th century, as St. Catherine St. was being developed to become Westmount's commercial street, James C. Ritchie, a stockbroker, and Orrin S. Wood, believed to be the manager of the Montreal Telegraph Company, assembled land along St. Catherine St. and Dorchester St., and sold it off to James Duncan Gibb, who had inherited his father's haberdashery, which was one of the leaders in tailoring men's fashions in Montreal. He was also heavily involved in local politics, business and Scottish heritage, and might have been one of the first anglo rights personalities in Montreal history.

At this point (about 1850), the block between St. Catherine and Dorchester streets, Atwater and Greene avenues, was basically divided in three: the northeast portion (Lot 378) was held by the Sulpician brotherhood, the southeast section (Lot 380) was purchased by Capt. Philip Durnford, who built a house there in 1834. The western section was still believed to be in the hands of Lucy Greene-Atwater, though she would have divided it soon afterward and sold off portions for development.

Wood, of course, also owned land on the north side of St. Catherine on what are now Wood and Elm avenues (and Westmount Square), some of which was included in his sale to Gibb.

In rapid succession, the land on the west side of the block was sold to a developer under the name "Land and Loan Company" in May 1889. By September, it was picked up by George Bishop, an engraver, who a week later formed a partnership with George Vipond, to whom he sold a 50-percent share. In December, they created Gladstone Ave. and sold off bits of land on the east side of it to the Durnfords.

The rest they began developing, including two semi-detached houses at 11 and 15 Gladstone. They sold 11 Gladstone to George Alexander Neville in July 1890. Bishop then cleared out and left 15 Glad-

stone to Vipond in October 1890. Vipond held onto it until his death in (or about) 1902, and the property moved on to Hugh Vallance, who apparently was proprietor of C. White Boiler Works, for \$6,400. Vallance died in 1910, and the property changed hands to another family member, Alexander Rudolph Vallance.

During the 1890s, the Durnfords started selling off their land (the southeast corner of the block) and a street was developed, stretching off Atwater Ave., called Quiblier St. (in recognition of Fr. Joseph Quiblier, former leader of the Sulpician Order, which owned the land to the north of the Durnford property). Eventually Tupper St. in Montreal was extended westward from Closse St. to Atwater Ave., and Quiblier was renamed Tupper St., then extended through to Gladstone in 1914. Thus 11 Gladstone was located at the corner of the two streets and 15 Gladstone was attached to the corner house.

After 1919

Neville died in 1919, but his wife retained 11 Gladstone for another 20 years before selling to Camille Laurendeau, a civil engineer, for a mere \$3,600, which no doubt reflects the condition of the property at the time of sale. In 1952, Vallance died and a year later his wife sold the adjoining house for \$10,000 to Hyman Katz and Peter Nadler; it appears both properties were being rented out at this time. In 1957, Camille Laurendeau sold to Charles Laurendeau for \$11,000, but otherwise the two remained as rental properties into the 1960s.

This was a crucial era in Westmount's history when the southeast sector of the city came under extreme scrutiny. Many of the properties on Gladstone, Dorchester and Tupper – not to mention Wood and Elm avenues north of St. Catherine – were becoming run down and many were rented out as rooming houses.

Jean Drapeau, meanwhile, was re-elected as the visionary mayor of Montreal and inaugurated the construction of the Montreal Metro, among other things, which would extend to the corner of Atwater and St. Catherine, thus encouraging innovation at the edges of Westmount.

Westmount mayor Chipman Drury, responding to the recommendations of John Bland, head of the school of architecture at McGill University, launched the beginnings of a wholesale expropriation of houses on Tupper and Dorchester streets, Gladstone and Atwater avenues. Private entrepreneurs cleared out the land on the north side of St. Catherine and the city re-



11-15 Gladstone Ave., June 17.

zoned for the construction of Alexis Nihon Plaza and Westmount Square. Meanwhile, the province got involved by announcing the construction of the Ville Marie expressway, which meant clearing Selby St. south of the CPR railway.

Clearing of the houses on Dorchester, Tupper, Atwater and Gladstone began in 1964, and by 1972 the entire area had been demolished with the exception of the two houses on Gladstone. Everything else came down: small apartment buildings, houses, rooming houses and duplexes in the entire block. Most owners turned down the city's initial offers but were able to negotiate reasonable sale prices, though some cases were taken to litigation. Why the two semi-detached houses at the corner of Gladstone and Tupper were spared is something of a mystery; they were definitely slated for demolition in Westmount's development plans submitted to the registry office in 1966.

Once the dust had settled, Charles Laurendeau sold 11 Gladstone to Dr. James B. Waldron, an ophthalmologist, for \$21,000, in June 1973. At the same time, John Sexton, a chartered accountant, purchased 15 Gladstone for \$15,000. Two years later Waldron's wife, Ann Boler, picked up 11 Gladstone, paying Sexton twice what he had spent. In 1978, Waldron formed a company called Immeuble Professionel Gladstone, Inc., which took over both properties and, in the late 1980s, recadastrated the twin buildings as one lot, which was sold back to Waldron.

Finally, in the fall of 2000, Waldron was forced to declare bankruptcy and Montreal Trust sold the entire property – which now included an address at 4095 Tupper St. – to Dr. Richard Rapoport, a dentist,

who still has his office in the building.

The rest of the cleared area has gained one commercial property in the past 50 years, the huge two-storey brick building built by the Royal Bank of Canada in 1977, but otherwise the land is used as parking lots.

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Letters cont'd. from p. 6

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Recently, Tel-Aide has been subject to austerity reductions: government, corporate and foundation support, as well as donations, have not kept up with costs. Tel-Aide is now in its own crisis, having fallen \$50,000 short of its \$250,000 budget.

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port and contributions from individuals, the community and socially-minded companies. An urgent fundraising campaign has been launched in order to be able to continue into the 45th year of service to greater Montreal.

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Public updated on Turcot July 14

Greene Ave. ramp to be demolished Sept. 4

By MICHAEL MOORE

The all-too-familiar sight of construction vehicles will once again be converging on Greene Ave. in late August as construction crews begin preparations for the demolition of the 720 access ramp over Labour Day weekend.

The street, which has undergone major renovations in recent years, will face its first service interruptions beginning on August 20, representatives from Quebec's ministry of Transport and developer KPH Turcot announced at a "bon voisinage" meeting on July 14 in NDG.

On August 20, Greene Ave. will be closed off in both directions as a safety



KPH Turcot's Geneviève Campeau, speaking, outlines construction dates for impacted Westmount areas at the "bon voisinage" meeting on July 14 in NDG.

precaution to allow Gaz Metro crews to decommission a subterranean gas conduit. The same day, crews will also permanently close off the current 720 entrance ramp, as well as Selby St. for the construction of a support wall.

After the gas line is decommissioned, Greene Ave.'s northbound lane will reopen on August 26, with the southbound lane remaining closed through to September 3 to prepare for the demolition of the entrance ramp.

"Gaz Metro asked for the street to be completely closed [for the decommissioning of the conduit]," said Geneviève Campeau, director of mobility maintenance for KPH Turcot. "As soon as we can, we'll reopen traffic going northbound, at least. We won't delay. I think we may be able to accelerate the work because the street is closed off."

With that work complete, construction crews will finally begin dismantling the access ramp itself on September 4, the Friday of the long Labour Day weekend. According to Campeau, the operation is expected to take 40 hours' worth of work, which would have made it logistically im-

possible to undertake on an ordinary weekend due to regulations on permissible work hours.

"A usual two-day weekend wouldn't be enough with a daily schedule of 7 am to 7 pm," she said.

During the ramp demolition, Atwater Ave., the Guy exit ramp and the right eastbound lane will all be closed. All residents who live in the affected areas are expected to receive written notice of the plans and dates from the Transport Quebec.

Key dates:

August 20 – Permanent closing of the Greene Ave.'s 720 access ramp, Permanent closing of Selby St. and temporary closing of Greene Ave. (northbound and southbound) for removal of a Gaz Metro line.

August 26 – Reopening of northbound traffic on Greene Ave.

September 4 – Reopening of southbound traffic on Greene Ave.

September 4-7 – Demolition of the Greene Ave.'s 720 access ramp.

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Westmounters enjoy pasta-pizza picnic



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

CTV's **Paul Karwatsky** was guest of honour at the Westmount home of **Terry** and **Linda Smith** (wearing a JS Collection dress) for "In my Kitchen," a Miriam Foundation fundraiser June 18. Guests raved about the homemade pastas and dripping-delicious pizzas from local restos Vago and Bacaro, represented by **Tommaso Mulé**.

As guests enjoyed the perfect "déjeuner sur l'herbe," foundation president **Warren Greenstone** conducted an *al fresco* auction with Karwatsky, raising almost \$4,000, thanks to the generosity of **Peter Yanofsky** who bid on many lots. Items included dinner at Milos, and accessories from Michael Kors, Burberry and Marc by Marc Jacobs as well as a signed P.K. Subban Canadiens sweater.

Yanofsky attended with his wife **Franki**,

chic in a white lace dress by designer Cynthia Rowley. In fact, dresses were the order of the elegant eve – the better to wear Stuart Weitzman stiletto sandals and show pretty pedicures. Fashionable frocks ranged from a beautiful turquoise print, worn by **Anna Broccolini** there with hubby **John**; quiet florals on **Rosemary Niro**, with hubby **Frank**; and black-and-white geometrics, as seen on **Cheryl Gross**, there with **Chris Kalogeropoulos**.

Held on a humid night after days of rain, the reception offered a fun way to beat the heat: DJ **Matthew Goldstein** ensured that guests worked off the amazing frozen desserts.

Noted in the sold-out crowd were Westmounters **Andrew Hops**, **Philip Hazan**, **Judi Wolfe**, **Maira** and **Michael Pesner**, **Phyllis** and **Ted Tessler** and granddaughter **Morgan Tessler**, **Richard Rappaport**, **Mary** and **Rocco Tassone** and his brother **Vince Tassone** with his wife **Sabina**, **Dale** and **Nick Tedeschi** and impresario **Barry Garber**, just back from Ecuador arranging yet another event with one of his stars.

Also seen were **Nadia Alberge**, the foun-



From left: Nadia Alberge, Paul Karwatsky, Linda Smith and Marsha Becker.



From left: Andrew Hops, Rosemary Niro, Cheryl Gross and Chris Kalogeropoulos.

dation's director of operations **Nancy Smith** and events coordinator **Ayla Foers**, as well as **George Athans** and **Rubin** and **Marsha Becker**, volunteer chair of "In My Kitchen," a fundraising framework for the foundation.



Anna, left, and John Broccolini.



Warren Greenstone, left, and Dale Tedeschi.



Morgan Tessler, left, and Terry Smith.

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Grassroots street signage



A bright yellow plastic figurine sits on the corner of Grenville and Murray Hill, as, from left, cousin Andreu Plr from Spain, and Kayvan, Soraya and Alec Barin travel by on the afternoon of August 1. Two other traffic safety devices were seen being placed on the street. Father of three of the children, Siamak Barin, explained "Cars really speed up and down Murray Hill and Grenville, and children like to play here. I bought these little yellow men in the US. I couldn't find anything like it in Canada. They work – it slows the traffic."

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Wener new chancellor of Concordia

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount resident and Canderel real estate development firm CEO Jonathan Wener, who helped guide Concordia University through two decades of expansion



Jonathan Wener in his office downtown June 30.

and construction, has been the university's new chancellor since January.

The honorary appointment is especially meaningful to Wener: he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1971 from Sir George Williams University (which merged in 1974 with Loyola College to cre-

ate Concordia University).

"It's a university that I've been very closely attached to since 1967 when I entered it," he told the *Independent*. "I met my wife there, I got my education there, and it's actually where I got the startup capital for Canderel – from Concordia."

Wener is replacing L. Jacques Ménard, chairman of BMO Nesbitt Burns, who was Concordia's chancellor since 2011.

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Garneau announces proposed children's commissioner



Marc Garneau, Liberal MP for the Westmount-Ville-Marie riding, was at Dawson College August 4 to announce his party would establish an Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young Persons in Canada. He explained that because children do not have the right to vote, someone needs to stand up for them and ensure that Canadian laws keep children in mind. Garneau also answered questions from parents. Standing beside him are children from the Trevor Williams Basketball Academy. The Canada Summer Jobs grant helped subsidize the academy.

Photo: Matt Faigan

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