

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 9 No. 9b

We are Westmount

September 8, 2015

City reviews condo plan at Metro grocery site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Long-standing rumours erupted again recently over plans to redevelop the south-east corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria now occupied by the Metro grocery store and its parking lot as well as adjacent offices and the Laurentian Bank.

Developer and Westmount resident Jacob Attias told the *Independent* September

1 his proposal calls for a complex of 80 condos over the entire property. This would include a Metro grocery store at ground level and two levels of underground parking.

It was Attias, through Ramco Development, who undertook the six-storey condo project of large residences at 1250 Greene that incorporates the 5 Saisons store. It was a more upscale project than what he proposes for the Victoria village site.

"This is a bigger project with 80 residences that would bring younger families to the area," he explained. Geared to that demo- continued on p. 30

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces spared from ban

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounters who enjoy lighting up the fireplace will not be affected by a recent Montreal by-law prohibiting the use of traditional wood-burning stoves and fireplace wood that do not meet new emission standards.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability, said last week that Westmount saw no need to adopt the same measures, a position also taken by other demerged municipalities,



Lead developer of a proposed supermarket/seniors' home project at the corner of St. Catherine St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. Luc Maurice addresses the packed room during a September 3 public consultation meeting at the Côte des Neiges-NDG's borough hall. See stories p. 6-7.

Photo: Isaac Olson



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 29

Art Scene BY H. BLACK p. 13

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Montreal's by-law ban was adopted August 17 and applies to all wood-burning devices that do not use cleaner alternatives than wood. These include gas-fired units or pellet burning stoves. It applies after October 1, 2018.

"What drove this change was people using wood-burning stoves for heating," Lulham explained. "I'd be surprised if any home in Westmount is heated this way." Lulham, continued on p. 9

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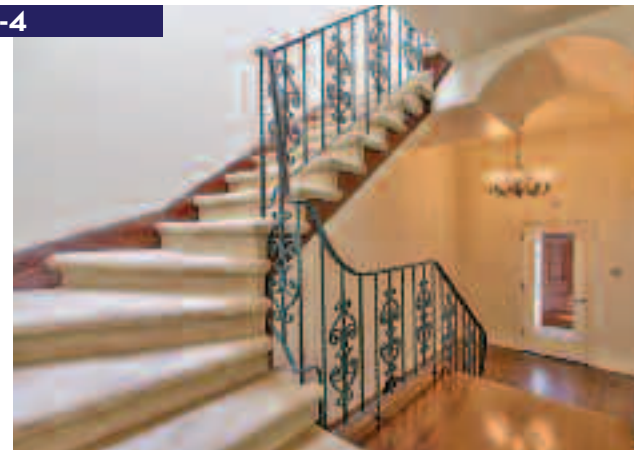
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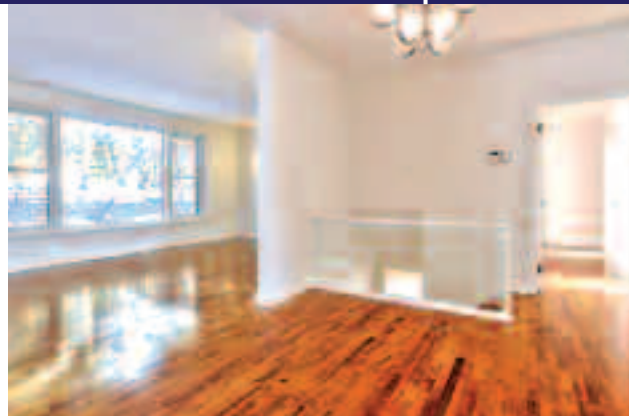
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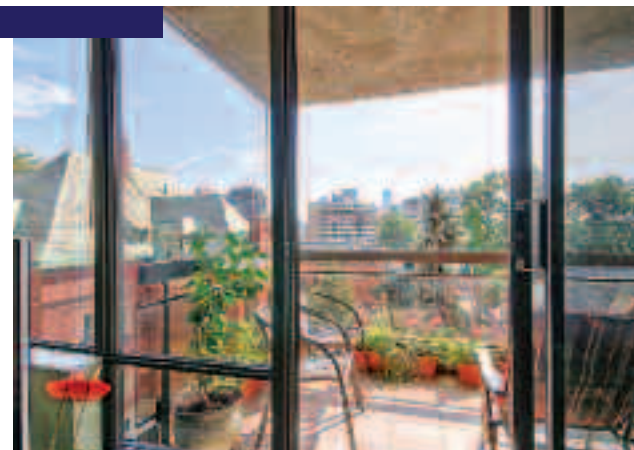
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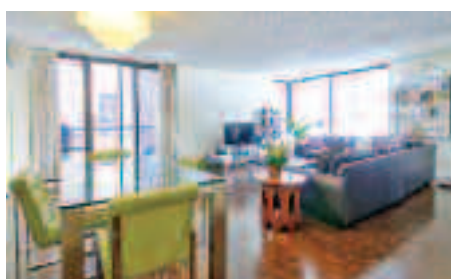
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‘Mystery’ digger identified on Westmount portion of Glen site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A yellow excavator at work far into the super-hospital site on the Westmount portion of the property has been digging a rain-water retention basin, according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

The equipment was noticed by a resident of York St. concerned that work was already starting up on the construction of a building to house the Montreal Neuro-

logical Institute.

“The yellow tractor is working deep into the property,” said Dorothy Lipovenko August 31. She said she had called Public Security for information and been told another resident had also called wondering what was happening. In the absence of an answer, she then contacted the *Independent*.

Work on the retention basin was taking place at the southwest corner of the Westmount land, just east of the MUHC’s re-

search centre, Poirier explained.

The permit was approved at the May 19 city council meeting as a one-foot deep basin (see list of permits, May 26, p. 18). Since then, she added, the permit was revised to allow for the request for a narrower but deeper, three-foot basin to catch storm water.

Neuro could go there

Because this is the general location where a new Neuro building is expected to

be erected, the plan for the basin to take up less surface area made sense, Poirier said.

It is still too early to give an exact date for the planned move by the Neuro, its website states.

But “Yes, the Montreal Neurological Hospital will move to the Glen site in the future, to be next to the new MUHC hospital.” Until that time, it would be continuing its work at the current location on University St.



Photo: Westmount Independent

Seen from the MUHC emergency road off Glen Rd., looking southeast from the northeast corner of the MUHC’s Glen campus, there were two diggers and one dump truck hard at work the afternoon of September 2. The dump truck was building up the berm visible at the bottom right of the picture, using dirt from where the two diggers were. What appeared to be water-based cooling towers are visible on the right, just to the left of the parking garage. The hospital’s main building is to right/west and not visible.

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New Public Security car hits the road in fleet renewal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents may have noticed a new Public Security vehicle on patrol recently, the first of three that were ordered to replace those nearing the end their heavy-duty life. They will be phased in over the next month or so.

The new cars are Ford Interceptors, a utility vehicle being purchased “because of its durability” and interior space needed for new equipment, said Public Security director Greg McBain.

The city’s patrol cars log about 150 km a day and carry heavy equipment up and down the hills, which have found to be unsuitable for hybrid patrol vehicles. (See story February 14, 2012, p. 15.) Only one remains.

The department’s fleet currently includes four Subaru Foresters along with a Toyota Highlander (a hybrid) and one Camry. Most are at least four years old and one dates back to 2006.

The new vehicles will be phased in to replace the Subarus described by McBain as “great family vehicles,” but which have been in and out of the garage lately for a number of repairs.

Vehicles reinforced

The new vehicles have been studied for use by police and first responders, he said. Along with being reinforced underneath, they have reinforced seats, brakes and tire sides.

“They are also more spacious, which will ac- *continued on p. 10*



Public safety officer Patrice Dion drives the new Public Security patrol vehicle September 3.



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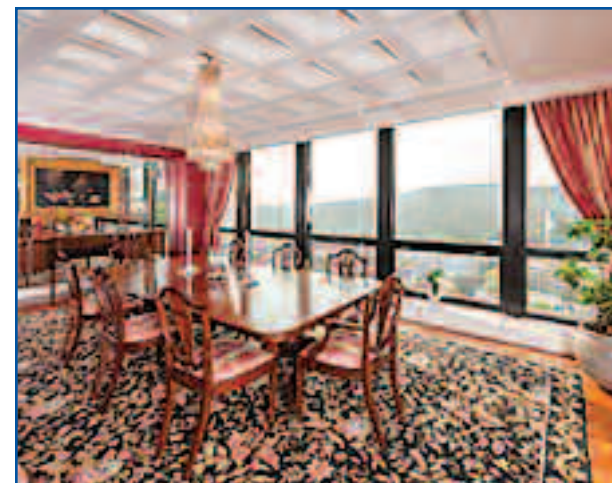
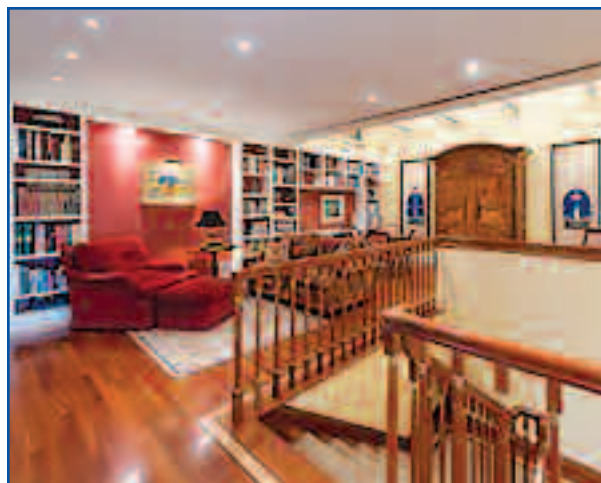
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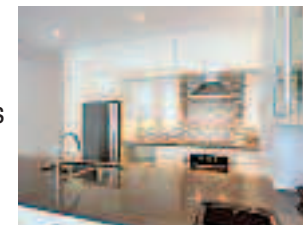


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Traffic a concern over

By ISAAC OLSON

A September 3 public consultation session in Côte des Neiges-NDG's borough hall drew a standing-room-only crowd and a flood of emotional testimony as citizens butted heads over the planned 300-unit senior residence and 9,000-square-metre supermarket slated to be constructed at the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and St. Catherine St. at Claremont by the spring of 2017.

At present, the borough's planning department is recommending the project and, while the council vote has been divided, the proposed zoning changes have thus far been approved. If it clears the next set of hurdles, residents are threatening a referendum as they are concerned about the car and truck traffic that the Provigo supermarket could bring to the area.

A Westmount city councillor shared similar sentiments. Cynthia Lulham said

Westmount officials are pleased with the foundation being a seniors residence but with the expected increase in traffic and the parking garage entrance off St. Catherine St., there are concerns.

"We are worried about deliveries to the Provigo on that curve," she said. "It's already a very congested area, and it's a curve. We are very concerned about the trucks and deliveries and the garage entrance to the store as well. I would add that the city of Westmount wants to be a good neighbour with the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG, and we should work together and discuss this traffic issue as the street and sidewalk are in Westmount."

Citing the entrance/exit locations as his biggest concern and his reason for voting against the project at the last council meeting, NDG district councillor Peter McQueen suggested Westmount and the borough discuss cutting the concrete median on St. Catherine. As it is, cars travelling north towards Claremont from St. Catherine would have to loop through either neighbourhood in order to access the St. Catherine-based access to the garage.

The borough's studies found the project won't add much to the traffic. Pascal Trotter, the borough's traffic division chief, showed a video from this spring of a quiet St. Catherine St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. intersection. He said the temporary closure of the St. Jacques St. bridge and other construction may be affecting the current situation, but that will subside with time.

"You couldn't have more traffic unless you stacked cars on top of each other," argued resident Elaine Arshinoff. On that same note, Alain Barta said, "Your traffic studies are way off. It's bumper to bumper all day long."

Speaking in French, Wilson Ave. resident Stéphanie Larouque asked, "What do we want at this location?" It's not going to be a park, she said, but it will be a highrise



Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham cites traffic concerns if the Provigo/seniors residence is approved.



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proposed Provigo project near Claremont

building – and traffic, she argued, is part of Montreal life. She drew loud cheers from the audience when she said, “This is the best project that we could have.”

Jean-Philippe Robin, representing the Provigo supermarket chain, said a letter was presented in support of the project with 326 signatures from neighbours, including Westmount residents. He said Montreal Children’s Hospital supporters and supermarket representatives knocked on doors from Decarie Blvd. to Prince Al-

bert Ave. The company also completed a phone survey this past spring that, a press release claims, showed 71 percent of 601 contacted residents support the project. (See story August 25, p. 4.)

Lead developer Luc Maurice told the audience he is looking to turn an empty lot into an “elegant” construction that will bring jobs to the area, especially for youth, and, along with other financial contributions required by Montreal, \$1 million in annual taxes.

Reaction to ‘Provigo’ project meeting

Westmount wants to work with NDG to reduce impact of project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If the proposed Provigo/seniors complex is to go head in NDG on the border of Westmount, it is important for the two jurisdictions to work together on its expected impact at the already “tricky” intersection of Claremont, de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the *Independent* September 4.

“It’s up to NDG to decide what they want,” she said after attending a rezoning public consultation meeting September 3 at the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough hall.

“But if they move forward with the project, I’m concerned about pedestrian safety, trucks entering and exiting the Provigo loading docks off St. Catherine and the need for protecting the views from three large garage doors along that street.

“I hope to set up a meeting with [borough mayor Russell] Copeman so we can work together.”

She said she and Copeman had spoken together several times as they stood in an overflow area of the packed hall “and we’re

going to get together.” Also attending from the city were Councillor Christina Smith and director general Mike Deegan.

Lulham, who managed to sign up ahead of time to speak, said she told the meeting that Westmount wanted to be a good neighbour and pointed out that a map of St. Catherine at York was misleading. “It left out the curve, the sidewalk and the park, which gave the impression of wide open space at that area.”

The project requires a rezoning to allow the proposed 10 storeys and the grocery store but both Lulham and Smith said the only opposition voiced was to the store and ensuing trucking, noise and pollution.

“There was outpouring of support from a huge presence of people there to support the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation,” Smith said. Provigo will be donating space in the complex to the foundation for offices and accommodation for patients’ families from out of town.

“Anyone with a heart could not object to their need,” she said as story after story was told *continued on p. 30*

Borough planning advisor Sihem Bahloul-Mansour called it a quality project that suits the mixed usage of the area. At 36 metres, it is shorter than the neighbouring building in Westmount and not much taller than 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd. It has green roofs on the lower tiers, she said. The zoning change is, for the most part, related to the supermarket as the current regulations only allow for small businesses and boutiques at street level.

Many speakers were not direct neighbours, but, instead, were there to voice support of the Montreal Children’s Foundation and its 10 hotel-like rooms that, integrated into the complex, would allow parents, usually from afar, easy access to the children’s hospital.

Two mothers broke down in tears as they talked about the last moments of their children’s lives and the struggle of travelling home between treatments. In response, NDG residents accused developers of “stacking the meeting” and using the Children’s as a means to manipulate the crowd. Barta said, “I know this room has been stacked with people, with little children and warm fuzzies, but, I’m sorry, we live here, and we are going to block the project.”



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FINDING THE EXOTIC CATALPA IN WESTMOUNT PARK

As a young child, one of my first books were the “Dick and Jane” series. One particular story described a cottage that was covered with red and orange nasturtiums so vividly coloured that villagers summoned the fire department thinking there was a fire.

Westmount Park would be the perfect location for a continuation of that series – I have noticed many people stopped in fascination by what looked like a blanket of snow, in the middle of June, covering the park’s lawns and portions of the lagoon.

In fact, these were the white blossoms from the park’s northern catalpa (*catalpa speciosa*) trees, distinguished by their large heart-shaped leaves. (The southern catalpa have leaves, that when bruised, emit a disagreeable odour.)

Closely examining a single blossom leaves one amazed at its beauty. Each flower resembles a white orchid with ruffled edges. Its interior is lined with purple and maroon dots, as well as lines interspersed with yellow streaking.

The word “catalpa” (a misspelling of

Catawba) originates from the Catawba Indians’ ancestral lands along the Catawba River in North Carolina. The trees are native to western Georgia, western Florida, Alabama and eastern Mississippi.

The tree was first described by Mark Catesby in 1726 during an expedition from England to document the new world’s flora and fauna.

The trees bloom mid to late June with large clusters of flowers. Each cluster contains a total of 27 flowers from a common stem (inflorescence), each which blossoms from five to six days. The entire tree blossoms for eight to 12 days.

Interestingly, the flower’s stigmas (pollen-receptive surfaces) are sensitive to motion. If disturbed, and no pollen is deposited, the flower’s lobes will close within one minute and reopen five minutes later. If, however, pollen is deposited, the lobes close permanently.

The flowers develop into fruit resembling long bean pods filled with seeds that remain on the tree throughout the winter.

Fishermen have valued the tree as a source of worms for the past 140 years. Specifically, the larva of the catalpa sphinx (sphinx moth) only feeds on catalpa leaves

and is prized as fish bait.

Finally, appreciating the true beauty of these trees in Westmount Park demon-

strates that certain things we regard as “commonplace” are really truly exotic.

MICHAEL WALSH, MELVILLE AVE.



Photo courtesy of Michael Walsh

A northern catalpa in Westmount Park sheds its blossoms July 1 after a rain shower.

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Best wishes to Michael Moore

Freelance reporter Michael Moore has written for the *Westmount Independent* and its sister paper, the *Free Press* of NDG, Côte St. Luc and Hampstead, since 2011. Starting this month, he will be studying at McGill University for a master’s in information studies and the last issue was his last one with the papers.

Although he has often been the youngest member of our team in both chronological and “reporting” years, we have never hesitated to give him the toughest assignments, and he has shone covering them.

He has also worked on many more workaday stories and found ways to make all local news relevant and interesting to the reader.

We wish him the very best in all his future endeavours.

– DP

Commissioner, director ask for citizen assistance

City: Public Works depends on resident reporting of potholes

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Concerned by a number of potholes and cracks yet to be filled, Councillor Patrick Martin is asking residents to report the locations to help identify them for Public Works.

Martin, who is Public Works commissioner, initially expressed his concern at the end of June when he was informed that delays in filling potholes resulted from a later than usual spring thaw that also delayed street line painting along with rainy weather (see story July 7, p. 2).

He's had his eye on three potholes in particular at The Boulevard and Mount Pleasant, which he measured (see photos.)

With a noticeable number of potholes and cracks remaining, Martin said citizens can help out by reporting a pothole at 514.989.5311 or on the city website under

the "resident zone" tab.

So far this year, an estimated 100 to 125 potholes were reported through the website and subsequently filled.

According to the website, "Your feedback on roadway concerns helps us keep our roadways safe and efficient. We appreciate your help in reporting problems as you encounter them. Your request is sent directly to Public Works personnel who will dispatch it for inspection and scheduling for repair."

Public Works director Patrick Raggo also told the *Independent* that the department was depending on reports of potholes this year given the weather challenges when most of the holes are usually filled.

He said the city has two pothole-filling seasons. In the winter, crews use a temporary cold-patch mix until the spring when the holes can be filled with more

permanent hot-patch asphalt. During a normal spring, Public Works personnel on the road pinpoint the location of holes to be filled.

Cyclist queries repair

Metcalfe resident Gerard Belgrave, who cycles to work in St. Laurent via NDG nine months of the year, recently also expressed concerns about road conditions. According to him, the city had addressed some of the cracks at major intersections such as Grosvenor and de Maisonneuve "but not along the actual sections of street or bike path."

He specially noted "cracks and fissures" on stretches of Sherbrooke, Westmount Ave. (which has been undergoing water main work) and St. Catherine (recently repaved from Lansdowne to Kensington.)



The photos show three potholes and cracked pavement on The Boulevard at Mount Pleasant, as measured by a yard stick September 2.



Photos courtesy of Councillor Patrick Martin

Fireplaces OK for 'ambiance' not home heating

cont'd. from p. 1

who has a wood-burning stove, said she uses only "two logs three times a winter," for example.

By comparison, however, many homes in Montreal are heated this way, she said, especially in St. Leonard and Montreal North, "where you can see seven cords of wood piled up outside."

A high concentration of particles from the burning of wood has been attributed to respiratory health problems including

asthma, especially on days of heavy smog.

Fireplaces used for ambiance

While many homes in Westmount have fireplaces, "they're generally used occasionally and mainly for ambiance," Lulham said. "A number have already been converted to gas."

What really concerns her about the Montreal by-law, however, is that it allows for the burning of wood in fireplaces in the event of a power outage lasting more than three hours.

This is a fire safety issue since a rarely used fireplace that has not been recently cleaned or inspected can be a fire hazard, especially with prolonged use, she explained. Defects such as cracks in the mortar can lie undetected, as can squirrel nests in the flue.

She cited the example of a house fire on Kensington Ave. in Westmount caused by the use of a fireplace that had been pressed into service during the ice storm of 1998.

When the idea of banning wood-burning devices was initially proposed four

years ago, Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent* the suburbs had also been asked to join the ban (see story August 30, 2011, p. 1).

"I'm not in favour of an outright ban on any existing or new fireplaces or stoves but I am on using these to heat a house," he said.

Trent is president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), which was reported to have met recently on the Montreal by-law in August and reiterated its position.

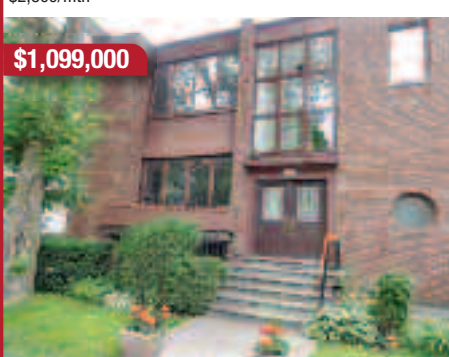


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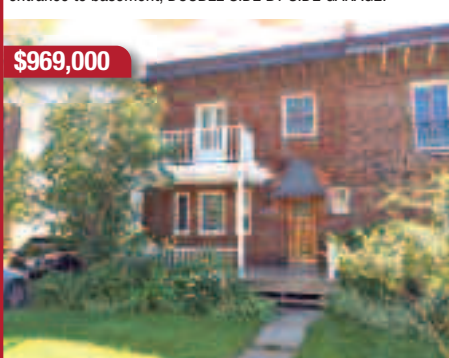
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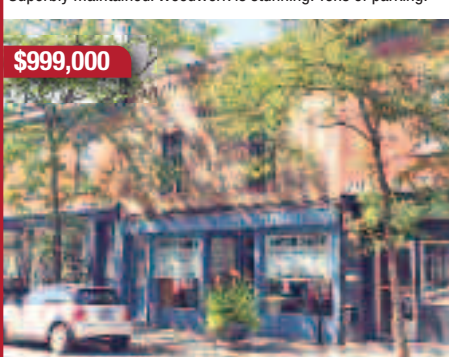
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Dialogue launched between city and houses of worship

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A draft report on a heritage study of Westmount's houses of worship is expected to be received by the city in about a month, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said last week.

This follows an information meeting the city held August 11 with representatives of most of the 13 houses of worship to explain the purpose of the study. This is to document their heritage value and assess the wider role they play in the community (see July 7, p. 4).

Poirier said she felt the information meeting had "calmed" some of the reservations some had expressed over not knowing exactly what the study entailed.

"The big unknown was what we can or cannot do," said Don McLeod, chairman of the board of trustees at Mountainside United Church, who attended the meeting. "The activities we all do have changed over the years and will change."

He said he was looking forward to seeing the draft and having an opportunity for further consultation. "A dialogue was

started." The consultants were scheduled to visit Mountainside September 3.

"I think there was a sense of a new collaborative spirit moving forward," said Councillor Theodora Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning, who was at the meeting along with Mayor Peter Trent, its chair, and councillors Cynthia Lulham and Nicole Forbes.

She said it was one of the first times the various representatives had "gathered around a table together to discuss some of the similar challenges they face especially when it comes to maintaining their buildings."

Another element, Samiotis said, is that the city could help them find funding through various sources such as heritage groups they may not know about.

This might include such features as the costly replacement of a slate roof, for example.

"We promised to get together with them in the fall before the report went public and to continue the dialogue."

Joan Hagerman of Westmount Park United Church said their common con-

cerns included the issue of zoning.

The representatives attended as a group led by Rev. Nick Brotherhood of St. Stephen's Church, who wrote to Mayor Peter Trent after the meeting on their behalf, saying "we are confident that together we can ensure our places of worship remain vibrant and continue to contribute to the well-being of our community."

The letter noted, however, that the group had "strong reservations" about developing an inventory of programs and services offered by the houses of worship since it "will not capture our mission to provide community, compassion, companionship and hope."

The Quebec City consulting firm of Bergeron Gagnon Inc. was chosen to conduct the study for its experience in the subject.

The study is to officially provide each site with a heritage rating and is taking place in conjunction with an island-wide agglomeration requirement in order to provide a framework for the historic buildings in the event of their repurposing.

Patrol vehicle cont'd. from p. 4

commodate the additional equipment we need as well as the new Toughpads," he said. These are part of the Panasonic Toughbook computer system that will be placed in the front seat similar to those used by Montreal police. Linked to the dispatch system, they will enable officers to write their reports on the road rather than returning to the office to do so.

Along with accommodating defibrillators, extinguishers and an array of other equipment now used, additional space is also needed for proposed new equipment such as six orange construction cones, portable stop signs and equipment to replace manhole covers that pop up during heavy rain storms.

This equipment will enable patrollers to handle many traffic and safety-related emergencies without having to wait for assistance from Public Works or Hydro Westmount, especially at 2 or 3 am, McBain said.

Open House Sun, Sept 13, 2-4pm



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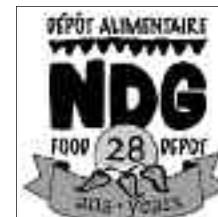
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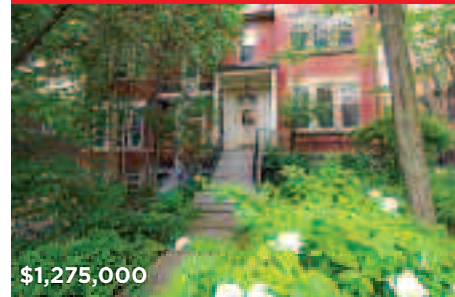


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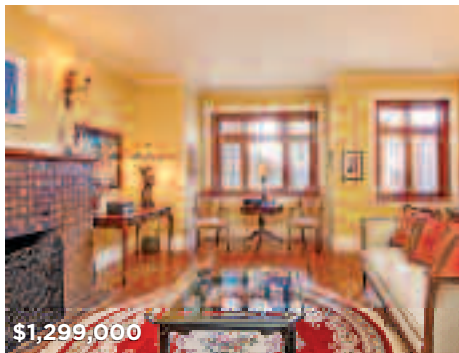
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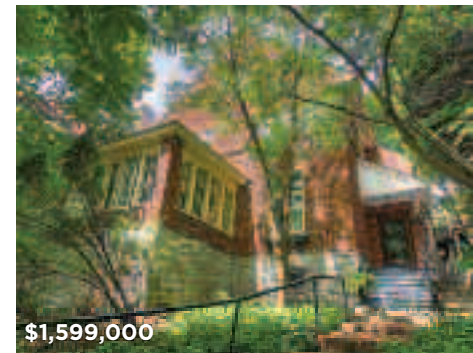
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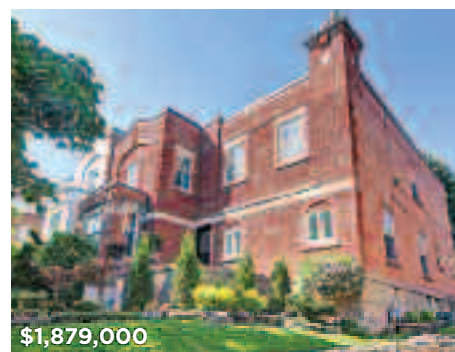
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Retired architect Reich adapts Summit Crescent home

By JOANNE PENHALE

With legs too weak to support the weight of his body, retired architect David Reich used his other strengths to support his wish to stay home.

“I’ve always retrofitted my home,” he said, laughing.

The most recent alterations have allowed Reich, who has post-polio syndrome and uses wheelchairs, to continue to access most areas of his Summit Crescent home, where he’s lived for 45 years.



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“My big disadvantage: this is a four-floor house,” he said from his basement office.

In 1950, Reich had a mild case of polio. By the mid 1990s, he began losing mobility in his legs, he said, due to accelerated aging of his nervous system related to his initial polio infection.

“Each step of the way, every few years, I’d have to make additional surrenders.

“The first thing I really felt I needed were railings,” Reich said. He had custom-made stainless steel railings installed and saw a gap in the market for suitable ready-made handrails for people with reduced mobility.

He and his nephew designed and launched a handrail system under the name of Promenaid.

“With my brackets, you don’t have to custom fit anything,” Reich said. The continuous handrail system runs up the turning staircase from his basement. Its corner fittings can assume various angles, he said, and the railings can support 1,000 pounds at any point.

As he continued to lose mobility, Reich said, he considered condos and assisted living residences, but about five years ago made the decision to stay in his own home.

He now mostly uses wheelchairs and



David Reich, August 10, after transferring from a wheelchair to a lift that travels between three storeys of his four-storey Westmount home.

moves between three storeys of his 3,500-square-foot home on a lift he had installed two years ago.

“Without the lift, I couldn’t stay here,” he said.

An electric wheelchair stays on each storey the lift travels to. Transfers from seat to seat – like from a wheelchair to the lift – are challenging, said Reich, and changes to his home have minimized the need for transfers.

Tables have been made so he can ride up to them and get his legs underneath without bumping table legs. An exercise machine is designed for users in a wheelchair.

Reich has removed raised doorsills and adapted others with small ramps on either side. He has widened doorways and resurfaced his rough stone terrace with pine, so his wheelchair can roll over it easily. The entrance to his shower stall is level with the floor and wide enough to roll his commode into.

To leave his house, Reich can roll his wheelchair along a ramp, out a basement door and directly into the back of an adapted van.

Reich had two marriages and six children in his home, and now lives alone. He has round-the-clock assistance: the CLSC covers 28 hours of help a week, he said, and he pays for additional care to ensure one of three caregivers is in his home at all times.

Including the cost of his lift, from a company called Bruno, Reich estimates he’s invested about \$120,000 in retrofits to increase his mobility.

“I’d like to die in this house,” Reich said. “It’s air-conditioned – why not?”

Regarding retrofits to accommodate mobility in Westmount homes – heritage or not – the city’s director of Urban Planning Joanne Poirier said, “We don’t have any by-laws to protect the interiors of buildings.”

For external changes like installing elevators to a home’s entrance, which Reich has not done, Poirier said, “We encourage people to install them so it’s not detrimental to the streetscape.”

Contractor gets hefty ticket for leaving site unsafe

A ticket for \$1,279 was to be issued to a contractor August 26 when a patroller discovered a large hole at 503 Mount Pleasant and the earth piled up on the sidewalk at 1:16 pm, Public Security officials said. An employee claimed not to have a permit with him and that a broken bulldozer meant he could not move the earth away. He refused to identify himself and drove away at high speed. The contractor was known for multiple previous by-law infractions.

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Westmount Art Scene

Krausz and Blandino: Black, white and colour

By Heather Black

This month, Westmounters won't want to miss Peter Krausz's photographic exhibition at the McClure Gallery at the Visual Art Centre and Carmelo Blandino's floral paintings at Galerie de Bellefeuille. Both artists invite viewers into their world to explore both the familiar and unknown.



Peter Krausz "Havana No. 6 (2010)"

Krausz at McClure

"Peter Krausz Photographs 1969 – 2015" is a series of 65 intriguing small-format images. Many are autobiographical with friends and family or document his journey from Romania to Montreal in the early 1970s. Others taken on trips to Greece, Cuba and India record moments in time. All reveal Krausz's eye for composition and, above all, humanity.

Krausz's black-and-white images are luminous. The face of a young woman peering inside a building, "Irina at the Black Sea (1969)," is dramatically lit by the bright sunlight behind her. A tree seen through the adjacent glass pane suggests the balance of nature and humanity. "Praga No 3 (1989)" conveys opti-

mism as a woman and man are bathed in bright sunlight as they cross the street. Another of a man staring into a shop window, "Montreal, the 1970s (Lèche-vitrines)" evokes curiosity. Framed on a slight angle, a strong narrative is developed.

In "Havana, No. 6 (2010)," Krausz's use of angled framing in the muted image of an elderly woman creates a disquiet that evokes concern. In contrast, the joyful colours of travellers on a train in "Udaipur Market, Rajasthan (2013)" demand attention. The final image, the weathered face of a charcoal maker "Le Charbonnier, Romania (2015)" conveys a respect for others that reflects Krausz's own humanity. The exhibition continues until September 26 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

Blandino at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Blandino's floral paintings are bold and dramatic. Painted in acrylic on canvas, floral arrangements vibrate against cobalt blue or crimson back-grounds. These images re-

continued on p. 28



Carmelo Blandino "White Flowers on Pink"



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The Study: No Ordinary Montreal School

"It's a cool tie, Miss. I'd wear it in **this** decade!"

Although the original tie worn by girls from The Study in 1915 still looks fashionable to their 2015 counterparts, much has changed over the past hundred years at this Montreal school.

Slate chalkboards and paper notebooks have all but given way to tablets, writable desktops, 3D printers, and press drills, but the values that were dear to founder Margaret Gascoigne remain at the core of what The Study is today.

"The Study was started as a school that taught things that really mattered," says Nancy Lewis Sweer, now in her fifth year as Head of School. "That philosophy really catapulted The Study forward, right from the beginning."

Things that matter – and that will matter in the future – include a well-rounded curriculum that prepares young women to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. A senior school curriculum that focuses on science, technology, and math, and also on the arts – and on a French mother-tongue program in the elementary school that is comparable to any leading French school in Montreal. Indeed, The Study offers half of its entire elementary curriculum in French.

Mastering both English and French is a key to bridging cultures and acquiring a broader outlook on the world. "We think of ourselves as global citizens," Mrs. Sweer says proudly. "Our students have connections with girls all over the world: students travel to our sister school in Nicaragua every other year, we have student exchange programs with schools in Australia, England and France, and on any day you can find

students Skyping with a faraway school."

Technology is only a means to an end, however, as students develop essential critical thinking skills, guided by passionate and dedicated teachers. "There will always be a need for a mentor to foster students' curiosity, and to help them reflect and answer questions," says Mrs. Sweer, "and we are fortunate to have exceptional teachers."

"And", she adds, "exceptional students, who are not only globally-minded but also strong stewards of their local communities who come from a variety of backgrounds supported by our extensive bursary and scholarship programme."

While the Centennial year holds a special meaning for The Study, Mrs. Sweer is quick to point out that the school's rich past serves as a foundation to build upon. To her, Margaret Gascoigne's forward-looking philosophy is just as relevant now, as The Study prepares its students for the future.

"After all," she concludes, "we are developing today, the girls that will have the confidence and the skills to be the leaders of tomorrow."



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There are countless reasons why this small French-language private school on Upper-Belmont Avenue in Westmount is the preferred choice for parents looking for a solid well-rounded education for their daughter. The desire to achieve high standards enables our students to go on to study in the best French and English-language colleges and universities in Québec and abroad. Marcelline alumnae have the tools needed to become successful professionals in the career of their choice. Our students benefit from excellent study skills, a broad cultural knowledge, a strong background in the sciences, the humanities, languages and an international Marcelline network.

Here are some Villa Sainte-Marcelline highlights:

- **CONTINUITY** – Kindergarden to CEGEP (Collège International des Marcellines) housed on the same campus;
- **PEP** (Programme d'Études Personnalisé) – Personalised study programs in **sports, music** or **dance** for students who want

to practice an elite sport, dance or music program while continuing to benefit from an outstanding and rich curriculum;

- **SCIENCE** – Our students are provided with an enriched, encompassing science program where they learn to apply scientific methods and to develop projects in both pure and applied sciences notably in biochemistry. Students are provided with all the essential tools required to be admitted to the top science programs, CEGEPS, and universities when they graduate;
- **TRILINGUALISM** – Enriched advanced language classes are incorporated into the curriculum. All students by the end of secondary have had the opportunity to obtain their English Language Arts certification, DELE certification in Spanish, and to pass the French BAC exams. An introduction to German and Latin is also part of the curriculum;
- **ARTS and CULTURE** – In addition to our very rich curriculum in history and literature, all students have the opportunity to participate in drama productions,

musicals, writing competitions and poetry competitions – our school won the Canada-wide *Poetry in Voice Competition* in 2014 and had two finalists in the 2015 edition;

- **SPORTS** – Competitive extra-mural teams in a variety of sports: basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, hockey, cheerleading and track and field. In 2014-2015, we are proud to say that the Villa won 5 pennants as league champs in volleyball, basketball and soccer.
- **INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE** – At the beginning of each year, all secondary students take part in an educational class trip to one of the following locations: Tadoussac, New York, Gaspésie, Boston or Stratford. Students in secondary 1, 3 and 5 are also offered cultural and linguistic exchange trips to expand their horizons while discovering Ancient Rome, traditional Cuba and Bavaria, Germany;
- **A RICH AND FULFILLING STUDENT LIFE** – There are many opportunities to get involved in the school life and in the community with volunteer

work and awareness-raising activities throughout the year;

- **GUIDANCE** – A solid network of dedicated teachers, families and alumnae which make up the Marcelline community, strive to support and encompass the students throughout their endeavours;
- **PREPARATION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL** – It is now possible to register your daughter in Grade 5, offering her the best preparation for secondary school at Villa Sainte-Marcelline. Please note that there are no entrance exams required for Villa Grade 6 students to attend secondary at the Villa.

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Learning for Life at Akiva School

"Life worthy learning: learning that is likely to matter in the lives learners are likely to live"

David Perkins, Senior Research Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of *Future Wise: Educating Our Children for a Changing World*.

At Akiva School, educational experiences are focussed on promoting learning that is relevant and meaningful in the today's world. Through innovative educational programming, Akiva students learn to apply knowledge to new situations, analyze information, collaborate, solve problems, and make decisions. Key skills such as critical thinking, global awareness, collaboration and communication are emphasized in a tightly integrated curriculum that empowers students to be able to take on real life challenges.

"Studies tell us that students need to grasp and embrace a whole new skill set than twenty or even ten years ago," said Jennifer Fraenkel, Head of School at Akiva School. "At Akiva, every aspect of our students' learning has a life-worthy outcome and purpose. We are committed to ensuring that our students are equipped with the tools they need to be successful in the future."

Teaching life skills through innovative curriculum and extracurricular programming
Akiva students learn the basic three "Rs" (reading, writing and arithmetic) of traditional education through the lens of innovative programming that allows them to apply content to real life context in all three languages (English, French and Hebrew). Take for example, the grade 5 Business Entrepreneurial

Unit where students are paired up with a local small business to help solve a business issue. Students practice math and writing skills while at the same time learning the basics of small business operations, including accounting, marketing and human resource management. Akiva's computer coding and robotics programs fine tune students' critical thinking skills and give them insight into the field of Computer Science. Lunchtime extracurricular activities include "Introduction to Engineering" and Science programs where students can learn the basic principles of Engineering and the amazing aspects of Science that surround us in everyday life.

Educating for global competence outside the classroom

Globally competent individuals are aware and curious to learn about the world. This year, Akiva School has built in a global awareness component across learning units in all grades. Students will work on learning themes such as civic, environmental or entrepreneurial literacy. Each unit will include a guest speaker or field trip and an outreach project where students can really see how their new knowledge applies in their lives. From kindergarten to grade 6, Akiva students will be learning about the world around them. They will partner with organizations, collaborate and problem solve, experiencing firsthand how they too can make a difference.

Meaningful Jewish studies programming

This year, Akiva School has introduced a new Jewish studies program. The program supports Akiva's academic vision whereby students are engaged in Jewish learning that is meaningful and connects them to real life applications of Jewish values.

New content in the Akiva Jewish studies programming encourages students to take initiative, identify a need or challenge and follow through with creative outcomes that make an impact on their community.

"Jewish learning at Akiva means creating opportunities for our students to embrace Jewish values and have experiences as actively-engaged citizens where their work has an impact on the real world," said Leila Roiter, Director of Academics at Akiva School. "We center our attention on exciting our students about Jewish culture, Hebrew language, community and identity through meaningful learning that will help develop the future innovators and leaders of our community."

Stressing the importance of social and emotional development

Akiva School's definition of academic excellence focusses simultaneously on the different cognitive, social/emotional and moral development needs of every child in the school. Research has shown that the key to a well-adjusted child and a student's success in school is linked to an emphasis on all of these inter-related areas. An integral part of an education at Akiva School is about learning to be sensitive to the needs of those around you and working together to explore, create and discover.

Akiva Open House – Thursday, October 29th, 9:30am and 7:00pm

Come find out more about Akiva School's innovative approach to academic excellence and life worthy learning at the Open House on Thursday, October 29th. Contact the school at **(514) 939-2430** or visit the website at **www.akivaschool.com**.



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An education at Akiva means learning the skills, perspectives and ways of thinking that will really matter in the lives and future endeavours of our students.

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OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
9:30AM AND 7:00PM

IS YOUR CHILD 3 OR 4 YEARS OLD? NOW IS THE TIME TO VISIT OUR OPEN HOUSE!

We are currently accepting applications for children born between October 1st, 2011 and September 30th 2012 for kindergarten 2017, as well as applications for transferring students in all grades.



For more information, please call: (514) 939-2430 or visit our website at: www.akivaschool.com
850 Kensington Ave, Westmount, QC H3Y 3A2

Follow us on:



Akiva School is a co-ed English kindergarten and elementary school for students who have English language ability. Akiva School also has a French section where the language of instruction is French for kindergarten and elementary school.

Students are at the CORE of LCC

Since 1909, Lower Canada College – a coed K-12 school located in the heart of NDG's Monkland Village – has been focused on helping students develop their fullest potential in mind, body, and heart.

Ask LCC students, parents, teachers, or alumni what makes LCC special and they will tell you – it begins with LCC's **CORE** Advantage: a strong sense of **Community**; abundant **Opportunities**; exceptional **Resources**, and a culture of **Excellence**.

Beginning in kindergarten through to Pre-University, LCC offers an enriched educational program made up of academic, co-curricular, and service opportunities that work in unison, positioning students to explore and discover their true potential throughout their educational journey.

"Exposing students to diverse opportunities prepares them to take on new challenges and discover their unique talents and abilities," says Dawn Levy, Director of Admissions.

With a student/teacher ratio of 10 to 1, and an average class size of 17, a sense of engagement, excellence, and

respect for others is nurtured in the warmth of a welcoming and diverse community.

LCC students have a variety of opportunities to explore, achieve, and grow, cultivating a passion for lifelong learning. The LCC experience extends beyond the classroom and even across international borders. Global connections weave through all levels of LCC's four mini-schools, enabling students to build confidence and feel a sense of belonging and responsibility. Programs in athletics, music, visual arts, public speaking, and digital media abound, all taking place in LCC's state-of-the-art facilities.

LCC also offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award and is a member of the Round Square International Association of Schools – both providing students with exceptional travel, student exchange, and international service opportunities.

In fact, preparing students for success and leadership in a sustainable global society is a priority. In 2013, LCC became the only English high school in Quebec to offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate

laureate Diploma Programme: a two-year globally-recognized program offered as an option to students in grades 11 and 12.

"I feel more than prepared to go out into the world at large – I have received a solid foundation," says recent grad Ryan Dimentberg. This year, he joined the first cohort of IB DP graduates, a group that earned a remarkable 100 per cent success rate. He and his classmates are starting their university studies at distinguished universities worldwide this fall.

LCC's abundant resources are integral to a student's educational success. The school's campus reflects the continuous enhancement of facilities to meet the dynamic needs of today's students. Supported and guided by a team of exceptional teachers and professionals, LCC provides a comprehensive educational experience.

"We are fortunate to have some of the best facilities in the city – including our new Assaly Arts Centre – which are complemented by innovative programming and teachers who go the extra mile," says Levy.

LCC is responsive to technological realities. "We adopt innovative programs and resources to encourage exploration, experimentation, creation, and innovation. LCC has a new Maker Space, and in the same spirit of innovation, we redesigned some classrooms to facilitate active learning. These classrooms offer plenty of whiteboard space to foster student engagement, risk-taking, and collaboration," says Nathalie Lemelin, Head of Innovations in Teaching and Learning.

LCC lives community every day. Friendships, teachers who inspire, and engaging programs contribute to an environment where school spirit and pride in belonging are palpable. "The LCC family feeling and our ties to the community enable students to find the power to be engaged in the world around them," says Levy.

Community. Opportunity. Resources. Excellence.

We invite you to explore LCC and discover for yourself LCC's **CORE** Advantage that leads to a student's **Power to Be** the best that they can be.



WHAT WILL YOU BE...

LCC offers extraordinary opportunities for students of all ages to explore and uncover talents and interests that they might not have even known existed within them.

THE POWER TO BE...
lcc.ca

OPEN HOUSE

ALL SCHOOL
Saturday, September 26
9 am to 12 pm

Tuesday, September 29
10 am to 2 pm & 5 pm to 8 pm



LCC is a coeducational English K-11 school leading to the MEESR Secondary Leaving Diploma.

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7 pm: Information session for Grade 7

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The Priory School

Happy Children Learn Best

As you walk through the hallways of The Priory, there is a welcoming spirit and a feeling of joy that permeates the school. According to Principal Tim Peters, “Priory students are very proud of their school and feel that they are an integral part of how it runs. This sense of belonging and the happiness that accompanies it, emanates from the confidence and comfort they receive from our teachers who go above and beyond for our students, to personalize learning and encourage students to reach their full potential.” The shared Priory School philosophy, believes that if every child feels secure, respected, and valued, then in turn they will achieve great things. In short, “happy children learn best”. At The Priory, the aim is to provide an enriched learning environment which engages students in a profoundly positive atmosphere where they are able to develop a passion for life-long learning and discovery.

Our Mission

The Priory remains true to the Mission and Vision of its co-founders Mrs. Frances Ballantyne and Mrs. Alphonsine Paré-Howlett who believed that the early years in a child’s life are the most important. It is at this critical stage of early childhood development that children learn how to approach the world in an enthusiastic manner and develop the skills to thrive for the rest of their lives. Sixty-eight years ago, our co-educational, child-centered elementary school was founded with the belief that children should be children and creativity would flourish hand in hand with a strong curriculum in a nurturing environment. Today, “the little red school house on The Boulevard” has and will always be known as a place where “everyone knows your name and a place where children get the attention they need and deserve. Despite many campus



enhancements and expansions over the past five years we have kept our student population small (161 students from Kindergarten to Grade 6) because only a small school can promote the prosocial and academic skills that ensures success and confidence for every student. Our small class sizes ensure that each student’s individual academic and social needs are met”, says Mr. Peters.

Intrinsic Value of a Solid English and French Education

At The Priory, children acquire the intrinsic joy of learning, “At our school we recognize that children learn because it is rewarding, interesting, fun and gives them a sense of pride. Children are not naturally motivated by a grade dictated by the metrics established by a government ministry. Our teachers understand what drives young children and they are experts in knowing how to take ministry standards and turn them into exciting and engaging projects for every young mind,” says Mr. Peters. “The thrill to learn that is established at The Priory makes our graduates sought out by their High

School of choice, whether it be in English or French. Last year we had a quarter of our graduates who chose to continue their studies in the French stream of Villa Maria and Royal West Academy and they achieved their goal. In the past, our graduates were accepted into the French schools of their choice including Collège de Montréal, Jean-Eudes and Brébeuf. The enhancement of our French program over the past few years has given our graduates tremendous choice as to where, and in what language they want to study in High School. Our small French classes and the French Department’s keen understanding of every child, prepares students to receive acceptance in French High Schools with consistent success.”

Family Atmosphere

While new science labs, enriched learning environments, an outdoor classroom, student gardens, new playing fields are all important aspects of The Priory School, Mr. Peters says, “it is the family atmosphere and happy children who walk our halls that connect us to who we have always been.”

“Without happy children”, says Mr. Peters, “The Priory is not The Priory. No matter what the dreams of our students may be, our small school can bring them into reach. What remains at our core today is the same as what our founder Mrs. Ballantyne believed to be the core of a happy Priory student in 1947 – “a warm human being of moral integrity.”

This inviting family atmosphere that has become a hallmark at The Priory allows children and parents to feel safe and responsible for one another while learning to be the best that they can be. “Each child is unique and we value their diverse learning styles, strengths, families, cultures and communities.” Mr. Peters adds, “There is a feeling of teamwork, of joy and respect for fundamental family values.” At The Priory, education is not just about reading, writing and arithmetic – it is about preparing for life knowing full well that understanding global citizenship and living a happy life do not come from any course but from the joy of learning with and from the positive people around you.

If you would like to see first-hand what makes The Priory unique, you are cordially invited to attend:

The Priory School Open House

**Sunday, October 18th
from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, and
Wednesday, October 21st
from 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

*For further information,
please contact
Shannon Miner*

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Finding The Artist in You

Looking at the Visual Arts Centre building from the outside, it's hard to believe it houses seven large professional art studios and a contemporary art gallery. Even harder to believe is that almost four thousand students pass through those doors every year to attend art classes. Indeed, the Visual Arts Centre is Canada's largest bilingual independent art school and it will celebrate its 70th anniversary next year.

When asked what attracts people to take art courses, Director Victoria LeBlanc's answer is simple: the human impulse to create. "It's an irrepressible desire. Everyone has the desire to create something of beauty, to make something with their own hands, to express themselves. Especially now that we sit in front of computers all day at work, people are eager to engage physically with materials, smell the paint,

shape the clay or solder the silver. They want to use their imagination to explore their own unique expressive voice."

The Visual Arts Centre's School of Art offers lots of choice in how students might do that – from drawing, watercolour and pastels to acrylic or oil painting, printmaking, jewellery, pottery and sculpture. It's a full arts curriculum with multiple levels from beginner to advanced. LeBlanc is also proud that the School employs many well-known Montreal artists part time. "Our teachers are deeply engaged in the teaching of art but also have their own art practice and they bring that enthusiasm and commitment into our studios."

While some people initially enrol in art classes to relax, they find much more than relaxation. "They discover a passion they never suspected they had," notes

LeBlanc. "Some of our students have been coming here for over twenty years. Obviously at this point they know how to paint or sculpt, etc. but they come to find inspiration and a community of people who share their passion. There is a very lively sense of community at the Centre."

Besides the School of Art, the Centre houses the McClure Gallery which features approximately ten exhibitions a year. Moreover the gallery offers a place to talk about art. "Over the last ten years, we've been offering all kinds of lectures and conferences open to the public. We've had talks on everything from the Cirque de Soleil's art collection to art and healing. We recently introduced a series called 'Art and Ideas' which offers a forum for very informal exchange about art related subjects, often suggested by our students."

The Centre also runs an ARTreach programme which brings art to groups outside the Centre, often working with special needs groups or at risk teens. Art is also used to help build self-esteem and encourage social well-being. A recent project brought isolated seniors and young teens together in an intergenerational project that used art and story-telling to help build understanding and tolerance amongst these different age groups. "There's a lot of talk today about the democratization of art," notes LeBlanc, "meaning that art isn't for the rarefied few but for everyone. That is certainly something that guides us at the Centre. We believe that the making of art is one of the most fulfilling human activities. Besides, it's lots of fun!" Registration for the fall semester is now on. Courses begin September 19th.



Developing a Lifelong Love of Learning

St. George's students realize their boundless possibilities and learn to shape the world of tomorrow. During their time with us, our students not only experience a positive change in themselves as they develop into lifelong learners, they also grow to become people who make positive change in the world.

Led by a talented and passionate faculty and staff, our students develop a deep-rooted love of learning. Our advanced and challenging method of teaching emphasizes critical thinking, engagement and self-reliance. We challenge our students to think critically and express themselves creatively, and to embrace meaningful inquiry and thoughtful reflection.

Respectful relationships among St. George's teachers and students create an environment where students enjoy and value learning. As they are guided to academic success, our students are also encouraged to unearth their personal potential and rely upon what they learn to become engaged and respectful world citizens.

St. George's Elementary School

Our students live and learn in an environment that reflects the bilingual richness of our city. Small class sizes and dedication to responsive teaching enable us to offer a rich and stimulating French program to every student, no matter his or her prior exposure to the language.

Our challenging curriculum engages our students without overwhelming them. Each child receives individual attention to ensure that his or her academic and social environments are both enriching and supportive.

We develop students' resiliency, focusing on several objectives: creating awareness of one's own personal characteristics; learning empathy for others and acceptance of diversity; accepting that struggle is a part of learning and growth, as well as understanding that perseverance is necessary to see objectives through to conclusion.

Grade 6 Transition Program

By Grade 6, students begin showing their readiness and eagerness to start high school, but apprehension about such a big the change often accompanies the excitement. To address this, St. George's has created a unique Transition Program which enables our Grade 6 students to attend classes at our high school campus one day a week.

As a result of these weekly cross-campus experiences, our Grade 6 students become comfortable in a high school setting and learn to be self-reliant and responsible; skills which will benefit them greatly in the years to come.

St. George's High School

We are proud to provide a high school curriculum with

a broad selection of challenging courses in all major disciplines. Cultivating the many talents, interests and abilities of our students, we encourage them to explore all facets of themselves as learners. Whether they apply the analytical skills of a scientist with the creativity of an artist or vice-versa, our students are not limited in their learning.

High school students have the opportunity to take a number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, administered under the sponsorship of the Princeton Testing System. Students who achieve higher levels on the Advanced Placement examination receive credits or advanced standing when they enrol in universities in Canada and/or the United States.

We Build a Love of Learning

At the core of St. George's is our Centre for Learning Enrichment (CLE), which instills a lifelong love of learning. Our CLE Team analyzes and develops new initiatives in teaching and learning. All of our major educational advancements and initiatives are researched by this group to prompt perpetual growth and enhancement of our educational program, and to ensure St. George's remains on the leading edge.

Come to our Open House and see for yourself. Walk through the school alongside our students and learn all about their life at St. George's. You may discover that your child's path leads directly to our open door!

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Just west of Westmount

New NDG bike path an improvement: Lambert

By Isaac Olson

The new bike path configuration, which runs through what has long been known as the “Vendôme danger zone,” is being met with positive reviews since its installation this summer, but it’s still not perfect according to one local activist.

Daniel Lambert is president of the newly named Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, and he acts as spokesperson for the NDG biking association. Overall, he said cyclists are now, instead of white-knuckling their way through the intersection of boulevards de Maisonneuve and Decarie, able to pedal through with relaxed smiles on their faces.

“A two-way, protected bike path on de Maisonneuve is a huge improvement over what it was before,” said Lambert. “People are now feeling safe going through the Vendôme danger zone. We think it’s great.”

The complicated switching point from the north to the south side of de Maisonneuve Blvd. has been moved to the Claremont Ave. intersection from Decarie. More lights, signs, bollards and signals have also

been installed to ease the flow of cyclists through the area. The Claremont switch from the north to south side of de Maisonneuve is still tricky, said Lambert, but that intersection is much tamer than Decarie’s five corners.

Ideally, said Lambert, the city would increase the time people have to cross with a four-way, 20-second pedestrian light. There are still problems, he added, with drivers coming off Upper Lachine Rd. and turning north on Decarie Blvd. There was a recent incident, he said, where a cyclist and motorist nearly collided on July 29.

The westbound cyclist saw that he might collide with the left-turning vehicle, he said, and he grabbed the brakes hard enough to go over the handlebars. The cyclist, he said, was injured.

Cyclists still need to be wary, said Lambert, and he is recommending the city prohibit left-turns from Upper Lachine Rd. At the very least, he said, motorists should be delayed more by the traffic light before taking a left from Upper Lachine.

“This left turn here is particularly problematic,” he said as he pointed to Upper Lachine Rd. on July 30. “It’s very intense



On July 30, Daniel Lambert cycles on the de Maisonneuve Blvd. bike path through the Decarie Blvd. intersection.

because everybody wants to get through.”

Currently, he said, the association is working to educate cyclists and pedestrians about the new signage that requires cyclists at the Decarie Blvd. intersection to pass through the light at the same time as pedestrians.

This is different than an intersection further east at Greene Ave., he said, where cyclists can get ticketed for going through at the same time as pedestrians. The West-

mount group, he said, is lobbying for this practice to change and groups across the island are working for more continuity in the bike-path network.

On August 10, the CDN-NDG borough council voted unanimously to make left from Upper Lachine Rd onto northbound Decarie Blvd. illegal, in part to help cyclists. The change will be reviewed in October.

WE’RE LOOKING FOR A REPORTER.

We’re looking for someone with a background in journalism working on a freelance basis to cover a variety of local events for the WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT and FREE PRESS of NDG, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc.

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Contact David Price, publisher, at
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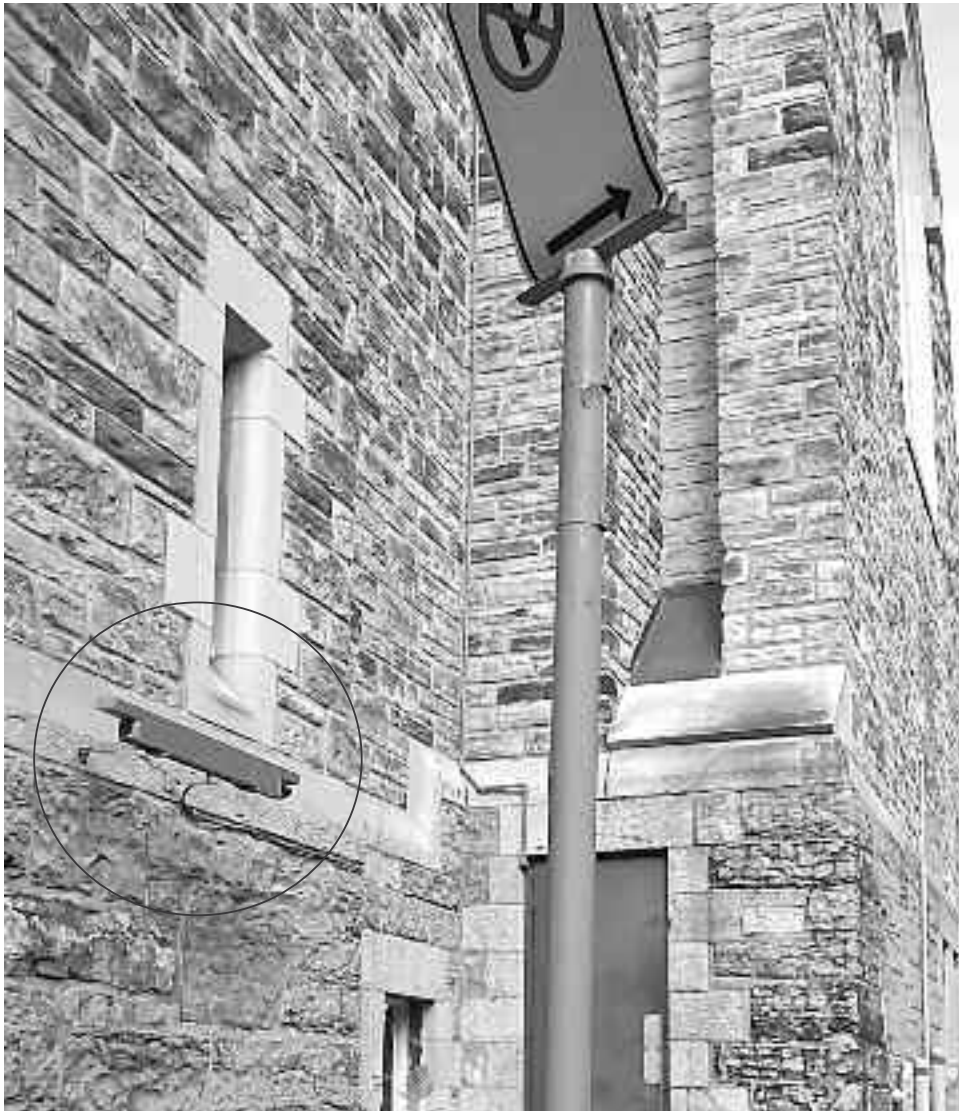
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Westmount Explained

Enlightening answer to mystery gizmo on St. Matthias'



The Independent was curious about this device on the eastern wall of St. Matthias' Anglican church, located at Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Church Hill. Is a security device, an icicle inhibitor or an antenna? According to Dawn Hallas at the church, contacted by phone on August 28, it is ... a light. It had a "mate" a little further up the street that was taken out by an icicle last winter. Mystery solved.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Westmount Unexplained

A dead emergency phone?



Photo: Ralph Thompson

The Independent was also curious about this device found August 29 in King George (Murray) Park. The corporate name on the metal box is Northern Telecom, which was changed to Nortel Networks Corp. in the late 1990s before going bankrupt. The metal sign above it seems to show a faded image of a white telephone on a red background behind a worn smudge superimposed with erased graffiti marks and secured with rusty screws. Upon opening the metal door, there was a mass of cobwebs and a phone. Upon lifting the dirty black apparatus, all that could be heard was crackling, even after a working number was dialed. After waiting some 15 minutes to see if a call had been dispatched to a security unit, it was concluded that it didn't work. Is there a point of having this phantom phone? Mystery remains unsolved.

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81-year-old falls on Greene

A pedestrian flagged down a patrol car August 26 at 11:50 am to say an elderly woman had fallen outside 1394 Greene at the corner of Sherbrooke, Public Security officials said. The woman was found bleeding from the lip, nose and hand. The pa-

troller bandaged her hand assisted by a nurse passing by before she was taken to the Montreal General by Urgences Santé. She was identified as an 81-year-old resident of Monkland Ave. No cracks were reported in the sidewalk.

Camera ‘captures’ agitated man

An intoxicated man captured on the city’s surveillance cameras at Summit lookout August 25 was intercepted at 12:17 am by public safety officers near Belvedere Rd. Public Security officials said he was well known to officers as claiming to own a

couple of properties in the area. He was described as becoming agitated when spoken to and informed that police were called. He left heading down Belvedere, and the call to police was cancelled.

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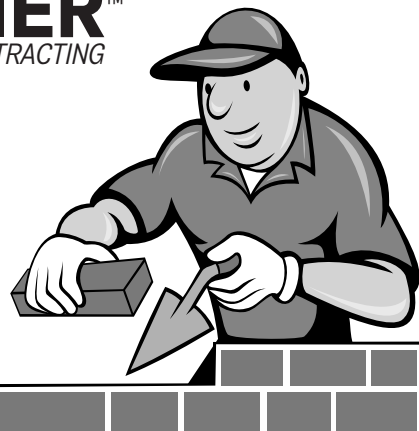
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infoWestmount

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Bureaux de la ville : horaire régulier

À compter du 8 septembre, les bureaux administratifs de la ville retournent à l'horaire régulier, soit de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Rappel : sièges de voiture pour enfants

Les agents de la Sécurité publique ont suivi une formation pour l'installation et la vérification des sièges de voiture pour enfants. Si vous avez des questions au sujet de leur installation, appelez-nous pour prendre un rendez-vous. Info : 514 989-5222.

Pour une rentrée scolaire en sécurité

Les agents de la Sécurité publique seront présents dans toutes les zones scolaires au cours des prochains jours. Nous rapellons aux conducteurs de véhicules de ralentir, de stationner en conformité avec les règlements et de nous informer de tout problème de sécurité observé dans ces zones. Info : 514 989-5222.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture d'été TD 2015 : Fête de clôture avec DYNAMIX !

Le samedi 12 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. À ne pas manquer - prix, rafraîchissements, divertissements ! Les membres du Club de lecture d'été peuvent obtenir leurs billets au comptoir des enfants. Info : 514 989-5229.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 16 septembre, 10 h 15, Salle de conférence. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount se rencontre aux 2 semaines pour rédiger des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous ! Info : 514 989-5299.

Cercle de lecture : *Reflections on Food, Fabulous Food*, avec Abby Lippman

Le mercredi 16 septembre, 14 h, Salle de conférence. Explorez un éventail original de récits gourmets sous toutes ses formes : fiction, documentaire, article, poésie. Discussion animée par Abby Lippman et son groupe de lecteurs intellectuels, hétéroclites et engagés. Le matériel de lecture sera disponible au comptoir de référence. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 22 septembre, 19 h. Discussion: *Sweetness in the Belly* de Camilla Gibb. Info: 514 989-5299.

Événement auteur : Robyn Sarah

Le mercredi 30 septembre, 19 h. Rencontrez Robyn Sarah, poète et auteure de *My Shoes are Killing Me*. Présenté en collaboration avec la *Quebec Writers' Federation*. Info : 514 989-5299

Conférences de 14 h : Nicole Peretz

Le mercredi 7 octobre, 14 h. Rencontrez Nicole

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 5 octobre

Peretz, auteure de *La petite fille de l'appartement 10* et Mireille Guyonnet, auteure de *La vie est comme le jus de pomme, meilleur avec du brandy*. Info : 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

AHW - série conférences d'automne

Le jeudi 17 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque.

L'Association historique de Westmount présente *The Lives of 500 Claremont: From Protestant Home to Jewish Orphanage to Catholic Residence*.

Soirée astronomie au Belvédère

Le samedi 19 septembre, 19 h 30 à 22 h, Belvédère du 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. Gratuit. À NOTER : l'activité sera annulée en cas de conditions nuageuses. Info : 514 989-5226.

Exposition: *Dialogue avec la pierre*

Du 24 septembre au 7 octobre, Galerie du Victoria Hall. La galerie est fière de présenter *Dialogue avec la pierre*, une exposition mettant en vedette les œuvres de quinze sculpteurs du Zimbabwe. L'artiste invité, Walter Mariga, sera présent pour parler de son travail et faire des démonstrations de sculpture sur pierre. Info : 514 989-5521.

Visite de la maison Hurtubise

Le dimanche 27 septembre à 13 h, 561, ch. de la Côte-Saint-Antoine (intersection Victoria). Venez visiter une des plus vieilles résidences de Westmount. Des visites guidées seront offertes en anglais et en français par les membres de l'Association historique de Westmount. Organisé en collaboration avec la division de l'Aménagement urbain de Westmount et Les Journées de la culture. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5219.

Concert: les classiques de l'opéra

Le dimanche 27 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. La soliste Judee Lalonde, accompagnée du pianiste Jacques St-Jean vous présentera une sélection de musique d'opéra tirée des répertoires de *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *The Merry Widow*, ainsi que Faust et Tosca. Billets 25 \$ (pré-vente 20 \$). Info : 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux

Le samedi 10 octobre, 9 h à 17 h, stationnement de la bibliothèque. Apportez peinture, solvants, pesticides, piles usagées, etc. Info : 989-5390.

CITY HALL

City offices: regular business hours

Beginning September 8, the City's administrative offices return to the regular business schedule of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Reminder: child car seats

Public Security officers are trained to install or verify your child's car seat. If you're unsure about the installation, give us a call and set up an appointment. Info: 514 989-5222.

A safe return to school

Public Security officers will carry out extra surveillance in all of the City's school zones in the coming days. We remind all drivers to please slow down, park legally and report any safety issues observed in those zones. Info: 514 989-5222.

LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club 2015: Closing Party with DYNAMIX !

Saturday, September 12, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall., Be there! Prizes, entertainment, food! Summer Reading Club members may pick up their passes at the Children's Circulation Desk. Info: 514 989-5229.

Poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, September 16, 10:15 p.m., Board Room. The Westmount Poetry Group meets every two weeks to compose poetry together, working with themes proposed by members. Everyone is welcome. Info : 514 989-5299.

Reflections on Food, Fabulous Food: Reading Circle with Abby Lippman

Wednesday, September 16, 2 p.m., Board Room. Explore a cornucopia of readings on the delectable subject of food, as presented in a variety of writings (non-fiction, poetry, articles and fiction). Discussions facilitated by Abby Lippman, academic, activist and eclectic reader. Readings will be available at the reference desk. Info : 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, September 22, 7 p.m. Discussion: *Sweetness in the Belly* by Camilla Gibb. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author event: Robyn Sarah

Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m. Meet poet Robyn Sarah, author of *My Shoes are Killing Me*. Presented in collaboration with The Quebec Writers' Federation. Info: 514 989-5299.

2 O'Clock Series: Nicole Peretz

Wednesday, October 7, 2 p.m. Meet Nicole Peretz, author of *La petite fille de l'appartement 10* and Mireille Guyonnet, author of *La vie est comme le jus de pomme, meilleur avec du brandy*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting

Monday, October 5

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WHA Fall Lecture Series

Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m., Library. The Westmount Historical Association presents *The Lives of 500 Claremont: From Protestant Home to Jewish Orphanage to Catholic Residence*.

Stargazing at the Summit

Saturday, September 19, 7:30 to 10 p.m., Summit Lookout. Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to observe the night skies through their telescopes. Learn about the planets and stars. Free. NOTE: the event will be cancelled in the event of cloudy skies. Info: 514 989-5226.

Exhibition: *When the Stone Talks*

From September 24 to October 7, Gallery at Victoria Hall. The Gallery is pleased to present *When the stone talks*, an exhibition of contemporary stone sculptures showcasing fifteen Zimbabwean artists. Featured artist Walter Mariga will be in attendance to talk about his work and demonstrate the art of stone carving. Info: 514 989-5521.

Tour of the Hurtubise House

Sunday, September 27, 1 p.m., 561 Côte-St-Antoine Road (corner Victoria). A guided tour of Westmount's oldest residence is offered in French and in English by members of the Westmount Historical Association. Presented in collaboration with Westmount's Urban Planning Department and *Les Journées de la culture*. Free. Info: 514 989-5219.



Concert: Opera Classics

Sunday, September 27, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Soloist Judee Lalonde, accompanied by pianist Jacques St-Jean, will present a selection of the most alluring opera selections from *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Merry Widow*, *Faust* and *Tosca*. Tickets \$25 (\$20 in advance) Info 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC WORKS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library parking lot. Bring paint, solvents, pesticides, used batteries, etc. Info: 514 989-5390.



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Art Scene cont'd. from p. 13

call classic oil paintings yet contemporary paint drips and swirls create modern textures. Blondino's brushstrokes are fluid and suggestive rather than controlled, and his use of asymmetric compositions create an immediacy that draws the viewer in.

In "Three Flowers," sunflowers in a vase evokes Van Gogh's imagery, yet painted on a red table against a blue background, the colours demands attention. "Divertimento I" is a fresh and modern composi-

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Westmount recollections
Memories of pastry



Owner Thomas Forestell shared some historical information on the current site of Westmount Stationery. Left: du Bois' French Pastry and the related Salon Prince Albert Hall upstairs were once located at the current address of Westmount Stationery, which it has occupied since 1988. The date of the photo is not known. The address of the building has not changed, 4887 Sherbrooke St., but the phone number of these businesses in a card from that era was "Walnut 8163." Top: The photo shows Westmount Stationery from 1999, before its 2003 renovation to reduce the "bump-in" from the sidewalk and take over the whole building, which was possible after the departure of Elite Suede.

Photos courtesy of Thomas Forestell

tion of white, red and pink blossoms, and green foliage hovering above a glass bowl. In "White Flowers on Pink," white flowers form a band against a bright fuchsia background.

For the rose composition "Serenade II," a branch of white blossoms, bending under its own weight, evokes both fragility and strength. Dripping brush strokes against a crimson background create movement and the effect of rain falling on leaves. Blandino's paintings are sensory studies that invite contemplation. Paintings from the exhibition (August 29

to September 8) are displayed in the main gallery, 1367 Greene Ave.

Contemplative power

Krausz's images invite viewers into his inner circle, his family, friends and travels, to experience the familiar of Montreal in the 1970s and the unknown of Romania and Rome in 1969, Greece in 1977 or India in 2013. Blandino's florals also remind viewers to consider the beauty of flowers and the power of renewal through contemplation of nature. As Salvador Dali once said: "To gaze is to think."

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University Women's Club of Montreal
Wednesday, September 16 at 6pm in the
Atwater Club, 3505 Avenue Atwater.

Fall Dinner Meeting to reconnect with members and welcome new members.
Presentation of interest group activities. One-time annual fee offer for new members.
Join this fall, pay total fee of \$265, and do not pay again until Jan 2017. This is a savings of \$100. \$31.04 (members), \$50 (non members; glass-wine included).
Reservations required by September 10. Newcomers welcome.

For reservations or information call **514 934-1362**
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Olympic champ Bilodeau guest of honour at King event



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Torrential rain was a non-issue for guests arriving at Westmounters **Marlene** and **Joel King's** elegant cocktail eve May 25. Bob Perras' valet parking team supplied massive umbrellas so one could arrive less



*Theodora Brinckman, left, and
David Stensason.*

disheveled and still have time to stop and smell the roses.

The reception was held to launch the Alexandre Bilodeau Fund for Adapted Sports at the MAB-Mackay Foundation. With a \$1-million campaign goal, the fund has already raised over \$250,000. Guest of honour and double Olympic champion **Alexandre Bilodeau** attended with his parents **Sylvie** and **Serge**, **Sabrina Bizier** and brother **Frédéric**.

The evening was to kick off the Foun-

dation's fundraising campaign. At the private event, Bilodeau discussed the positive impact that adapted sports have for disabled children and his passion for the cause, explaining that his brother **Frédéric**, who was born with cerebral palsy, was his greatest inspiration.

Joel and Marlene King, the latter stylish in black accented with fabulous pearls, welcomed guests with daughter **Bonnie** attending with her husband **Richard Shatilla**.

Westmounters attending included **Alwynn Gillett** and **William Tretiak**, **Ellen Wallace** and **David Laidley**, **Alex Paterson**, **Helgi** and **Ian Soutar**, **Judith** and **Philip Webster**, **Nancy** and **Bryan Fitzpatrick**, **Marion** and **Douglas Buchanan**, **Barbara** and **Jim Brodeur**, **Claire** and **Stuart Webster**, **Yael Benguigui** and **Adrian Maas**, **Alison Steel** and **Neil Matheson**, **Caroline Lafleur** and **Bob McKenzie**, **Giselle Murphy** and **Kevin Peacock** and **Eleanor** and **David Star**.

Also noted in the King's elegantly decorated home were **Lorna Telfer** and **Peter O'Brien**, **Adrienne** and **John Peacock**, **Rachel Renaud** and **Jim Hare**, **Elizabeth** and **Mark DeAngelis**, **Stephanie Rossy-Beauchamp**, **Ed Berry** and **Marc DeBlois**.

The Foundation's executive director **Theodora Brinckman** and local res chairman **David Stensason** (there with **Cheryl**), were joined by **Sean Zikman**, director of philanthropy, and com- munications directors *continued on p. 30*

Looking for your social events

The *Indie* fall social calendar will be published soon. Please send information concerning your upcoming fundraiser, including day and date, address, ticket price and contact information to: redgrave@videotron.ca.



Richard Shatilla, Bonnie, Marlene and Joel King.



Serge and Sylvie Bilodeau, Sabrina Bizier, Alexandre and Frédéric Bilodeau.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 29

Véronique Courey and Glenn Massad.

The delicious eve was catered by Phil Bloom.



From left: John Peacock, Helgi and Ian Soutar, and Adrienne Peacock.

Found Yorkie returned

A dog found on Lansdowne Ave. August 31 was returned when the medallion it wore identified its address, Public Security officials said. The Yorkshire terrier was found at 8:07 pm and taken home to Roslyn.

Dog pulls hard, topples woman

A dog tugged so hard on its leash August 28 that it caused its walker to slip and fall in Queen Elizabeth Park, Public Security officials said. The injured woman was spotted by Public Works personnel who called public safety officers to the scene at 8:39 am. She was believed to have broken her arm but wanted her husband to take her to the hospital. Officers drove her home nearby to meet him.

Bike locked up – too well

A Montreal woman was reported to have called Public Security for help when she was unable to get the lock off her bicycle August 26 at 12:20 pm. Patrollers went to her aid at the Melville entrance to Westmount Park but enlisted Public Works for assistance after identifying her. She left on the bike.

Provigo reaction cont'd. from p. 7

about the lack of accommodation for parents in the area. The foundation provided a letter of support signed by 2,500 people in one week.

"It's going to be a tough decision [for the borough council]," Smith said. "There is community support for the project but not from the immediate neighbourhood."

The intersection of de Maisonneuve, Claremont and St. Catherine will need to be reconfigured if the project goes ahead, Councillor Patrick Martin told the *Independent* last week. The intersection lies in Westmount but the project would be built in NDG.

The presence of the grocery store would require the coming and going of large trucks, he pointed out.

Martin, who was unable to attend the rezoning meeting, said he relayed his concerns to Groupe Maurice president Luc Maurice August 29 at a "meet-and-greet" reception held by the development partners on the parking lot adjacent to the vacant lot where the complex would be built.

"I told him how I had watched a tractor trailer try to make a right-hand turn off de Maisonneuve onto St. Catherine. Despite swerving way out into the intersection, the truck still had to go right across the sidewalk." Traffic that could arise from the NDG development has been an ongoing concern for Westmount city officials since the intersection as well as the sidewalk along St. Catherine lies in Westmount (see story March 3, p. 1).

Condo proposal cont'd. from p. 1

graphic, these units would be smaller than the ones on Greene.

With the project still under review by the city, details such as its scale and timing are yet to be determined. While declining to comment on the project itself, city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said that "no agreement" had been reached.

Attias said the project has been under review by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for more than four years in a process he called "overwhelming." His project at 1250 Greene also took many years of off-and-on study until a solution was finally brokered in 2010 by Mayor Peter Trent whom Attias said, "showed so much leadership."

Although he finds the process "tedious," he said, "I work well with the city."

Among the city's zoning criteria permitted for the site are buildings of a maximum 45 feet in height, parking if not accessible by vehicular traffic from Sherbrooke, and multi-family residential use. A few years ago, in an effort to ensure that a grocery store was retained at the current site, the following provision was

included:

"No commercial occupancy, except a grocery store, shall be established at street level in a building erected, constructed or altered after the coming into force of this by-law, having a frontage of more than 40.00 feet (12.30 meters) or less than 20.00 feet (6.15 meters)."

Graham Fletcher, who owns the Metro franchise at the site, said September 2 he was planning to retire next year before spring and will sell the franchise back to Metro Inc. The lease on the property itself is understood to expire in 2017. He has been at the store since 1986 and acquired the franchise in 1990.

During public meetings held by the city three years ago on updating its urban plan for the southwest area, the parking lot was identified as one of a handful of possible sites that could be redeveloped in the area.

The recent swirling of rumours about the project comes at a time when a plan by Provigo and Groupe Maurice is making its way through the approval process in the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG. See story, p. 6.

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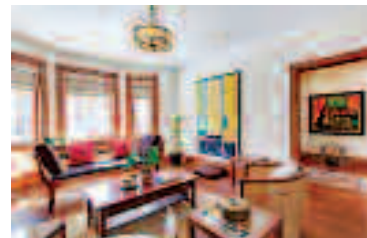
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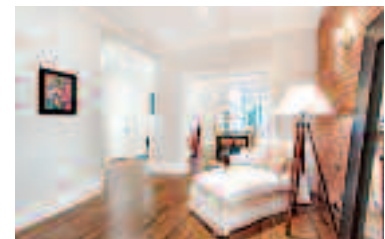
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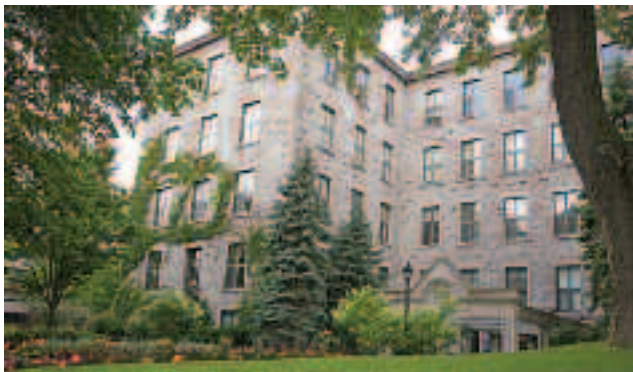
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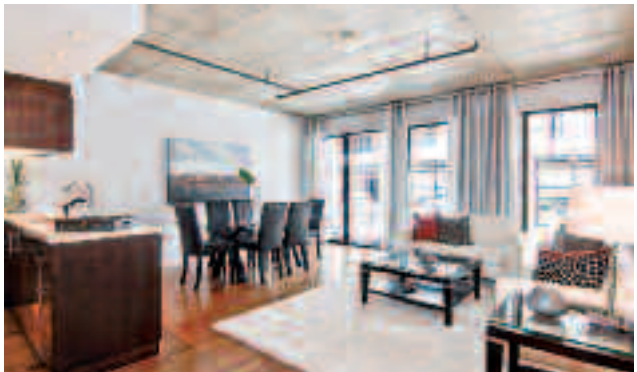
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