

New 'pay-by-plate' parking system set for April launch

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new era is dawning for parking in Westmount. City council September 8 approved an evaluation grid for the selection of a "pay-by-plate" automated system believed to be a first in Quebec.

Such a system would eliminate the current 800 parking meters throughout the city and use pay stations such as those found in Montreal's "pay-by space" system but offer one that is more technologically advanced.

Parkers would punch in their licence plate numbers, which would allow the city to set variable rates by time and location and enable Public Security personnel to

validate parking simply by scanning the plate. The system would also be integrated with parking permits and allow for both electronic and coin payment.

"This is a very new project," said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security. "It has involved quite a lot of work and shows some of the progressive docket that the city has [underway]."

The city was scheduled to go to tender September 10 and to evaluate proposals between September 28 and October 15. "We hope to get as many companies bidding as possible," Cutler said.

It is expected that a recommendation can be made to council at the November 2 sitting so the project can go "live" April 15, according to director general Mike Deegan.

The approximate cost of continued on p. 5

Ouch and oops



What was a harmonious scene the afternoon of September 10 of pedestrians, joggers and cyclists – mostly off their bikes – sharing the path in Westmount Park near the dog run construction site was temporarily disrupted by a cyclist stumbling at the edge of the pathway. Though seemingly uninjured, when he slowly rolled to his side to get up, he pushed on the fence post, which then gently toppled from the start to the end of the construction area, section by section.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Letters p. 6

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 24

Humour by I. KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM p. 21

Underdog by J. DAVEY p. 22

Opponents question safety, speeding

Council urged to reconsider bike route for Côte Rd.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens opposing the city's plan for a westbound bike route on Côte St. Antoine presented their concerns at the city council meeting September 8.

Architect and Côte Rd. resident Bruce Anderson led off by challenging the safety of running a bike path on the north side of the one-way west-bound street, where high retaining walls alongside driveways would

block drivers' views of cyclists as cars back out. He also cited problems of speeding, enforcing the one-way uphill direction, a lack of prior public consultation and the appropriateness of a bike path on a street of heritage value.

"I would urge you to reconsider the bike path concept," he said. "The westbound route might be better placed on The Boulevard."

The concept involves an continued on p. 10

Selby no more, p. 10.

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#5 in Quebec for Re/Max 2014*

#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**

Mouton Noir Café to open this fall

WRC finds concessionaire for one-year pilot project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A one-year pilot project to operate a café at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) was approved by city council September 8. It follows two unsuccessful calls to find a service provider since the facility opened in 2013.

A resolution was unanimously approved to authorize a service agreement with 9314-0408 Quebec Inc., whose principal was identified as Philip Chang, previous president of Vic Market on Victoria and long-time owner of Dragon Kitchen Catering.

“He plans to call it the Mouton Noir Café,” Councillor Rosalind Davis, commissioner of Sports and Recreation, told the *Independent* after meeting with Chang September 9.

The concession, expected to be operating later this fall, is to specialize in healthy foods such as salads. In the meantime, the city will be consulting acoustical engineers on ways to reduce sound levels in the café area, she said.

According to the agreement, the city will not pay any of the café’s operating expenses “but we receive no rent either,” explained city director general Mike Deegan.

The resolution authorizing the agreement stated that “The city would like to have a better understanding of the profitability of the space and to provide the services of a café to its residents as soon as possible.”

Two bids of 11

Last year, the city’s first attempt at find-

ing someone to run the concession – both indoors and on the terrasse – generated two proposals based on what was, at the time, a bare-bones unequipped kitchen. Both were rejected (see story May 13, 2014 p. 1). Eleven parties, however, had picked up tender documents.

After equipping the kitchen with basics, a second call for tenders generated the one proposal from 9314-0408 Quebec Inc.

(Chang) deemed non-conforming. In an effort to get the project under way, the city worked out an agreement with him for the pilot project, Davis explained.

Area being transformed

Chang told the *Independent* he expects to have the café open in November. It will be part of his new Mouton Noir catering business. *continued on p. 26*

Now you see it, soon you won't



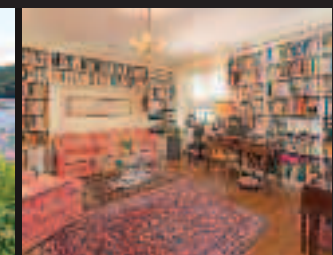
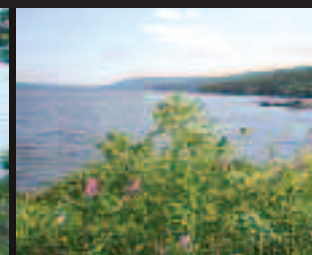
The café space off the WRC's green roof seen looking northwest September 11 will soon be re-designed and transformed. Some of the wrought iron tables and chairs will eventually be placed on the terrasse while the others are to be returned to the Greene public square outside Les 5 Saisons.

NEW PRICE



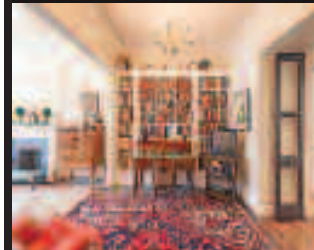
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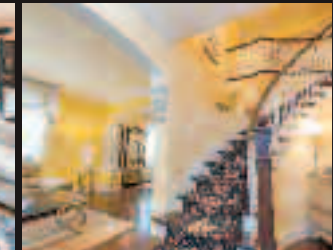
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Tennis courts to be rebuilt, re-lit at WAG

City council authorized reconstruction of the two tennis courts at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) at its September 8 meeting so the work can be done early next spring. The courts are to have an acrylic surface.

The contract was awarded to Les Paysagements Lumi-Vert inc. (LV Construction) at a total cost of \$244,078, all applicable taxes included. The actual cost after the city's tax credit is \$222,876. New LED lighting and fencing would also be installed.

— LS

Raccoons invade kitchen

Raccoons broke into a house on September 5 but ultimately left on their own, Public Security officials report. A resident of the home on Victoria, north of Sherbrooke St., called for assistance at 5:38 am saying that four raccoons were in the kitchen. The animals had gone when officers arrived. They had apparently pushed in the screen on a window. Residents were advised to keep the window closed.

Sports & Rec kids' classes full

Registration extending to Sept. 18 to fill adult programs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Sports and Recreation registration will continue until September 18 as some spaces remained unfilled in at least a dozen adult programs, the *Independent* learned last week. The new season starts the week of September 21.

Some of these under-filled programs face cancellation unless a sufficient number of registrants is received to cover the cost of instructors, explained Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator with the department. Generally, 10 participants are needed to run a program.

"Don't delay," she said, "or the program may not be offered."

Registration is now online and was launched in early June this year, which some people may not have known, she said.

Adult courses that were still not full last week include the usually well-booked wine appreciation class, which will be explor-

ing the regions of Veneto, Chianti and Piedmont among others, according to sommelier Nathalie Purchio.

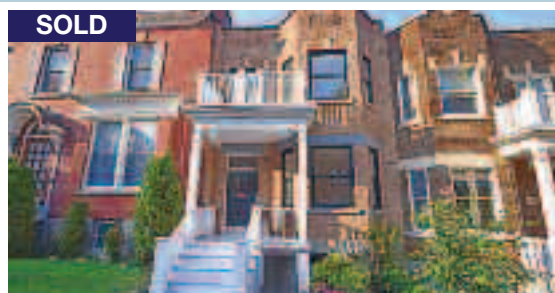
Other unfilled programs include jazz and classical ballet, yoga, tai chi, ballroom dance and Argentinean tango.

By comparison, Danis said, the fitness and other "high-sweat" programs are full, some with waiting lists.

As well "there's not much availability left in the kids' programs. That's probably because the adults focus first on the kids," she added.

The only new programs reported for this fall are different levels of classical ballet (floor bar), various levels of French language courses (beginner and intermediate), a "fit moms" class and a seniors' art class.

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Parking meter proposals may come from ‘outside’

City posts ways to help refugees on website

cont'd. from p. 1

the system is estimated at \$700,000, according to minutes of the council's July 6 general committee meeting, in which city IT director Claude Vallières outlined the plan. It is estimated the cost could be recovered in two years, he stated.

While it was further reported that a pay-by-plate system was not believed to be in use elsewhere in Quebec, Councillor Cynthia Lulham noted that both Calgary and Saskatoon had similar systems.

Both Cutler and Public Security director Greg McBain attended a parking industry conference and exhibition in Chicago in March to look into various parking systems on the market (see story

April 14, p. 1). At the time, an amount of \$650,000 had been included in the capital works budget.

Should any of these suppliers outside Quebec be interested in the Westmount project, they could be eligible to submit a proposal under certain circumstances.

According to Nicole Dobbie, assistant director of Legal Services, “the city may conclude a contract with a national or international company provided that they are registered in Quebec. There are some international companies that would have offices in Quebec already or that could establish one if interested in tendering.”

Such a technologically advanced system was initially advocated for Westmount by former director general Duncan Campbell several years ago. In anticipation of this, a pay station was installed in the parking lot of the Westmount recreation centre. It remains covered and waiting to be used.

It was Campbell's enthusiasm for the project, Cutler said, that sparked his own determination to spearhead and implement the project.

An outpouring of requests by Westmount residents seeking ways they might help in the Syrian refugee crisis was reported by Councillor Theodora Samiotis at the September 8 council meeting.

As a result, she said, the city would be posting information on its website. She said she had received many emails and calls and believed the best way for residents to align themselves with the cause was by supporting higher levels of government and organizations dedicated to the issue. That was also the position being taken by the city.

Among the questions later reported by Samiotis were: “How can I contribute?” and “Where do I make a donation?” and “How can I help?”

Samiotis said she discovered while campaigning for her council seat in 2013 that a number of Syrians lived in her District 8.



A pay station already installed in the WRC parking lot, viewed September 11.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NOT FEELING SAFE AS PEDESTRIAN

I walk around Westmount every day, and every day I am faced with the danger of being hit by a bicycle.

My pedestrian safety is constantly put at risk by cyclists running red lights, not stopping at stop signs, riding on the sidewalks, riding the wrong way down one-way streets, biking through crosswalks, riding down King George (Murray) Park's grassy slope, riding on park walkways and otherwise ignoring the rules of the road.

Crossing the de Maisonneuve bike path at night is terrifying. I look both ways carefully, but cannot see the bikes without lights that race along. I have had near-fatal, or near-paraplegic incidents with bikes when crossing de Maisonneuve, as well as Côte St. Antoine. Three times I have been one step away from being hit by a cyclist speeding the wrong way down the hill in front of King George (Murray) Park.

I am strongly opposed to adding a new bike path on Côte St. Antoine until the city studies, implements and enforces measures that will protect pedestrians from cyclists' infractions. I want to feel

safe when I walk to the beautiful park.

Bike policy in Copenhagen provides an excellent model. While the city has a remarkable and enviable network of bike paths, it also enforces strict rules. All bikes are registered, hence cyclists are identifiable and accountable. Cyclists obey the traffic laws since enforcement is frequent and effective.

I am definitely in favour of bike paths as long as they are well managed and cyclists respect the rights and safety of pedestrians.

CLARA GUTSCHE, KENSINGTON AVE.

OBSERVING STREET WORK

The cement crosswalk on the south side of the Lansdowne and Sherbrooke intersection was dug up and replaced after only a year of its being poured. This time, a steel mesh was embedded in the concrete. A sewer had been impacted and partly crumbled. A supervisor told me the repairs were done because of "les traverses" – width-wide cracks very evident across the surface. In fact, these width-wide cracks are readily apparent at other cement crosswalks around town, some of which also have sewers.

Interestingly, the north-side crosswalk



Left: A crosswalk at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne was redone with steel reinforcement mesh, seen August 22. The sewer rim appeared crumbled. Right: Deep transversal cracks appear on the crosswalk in this August 23 photo at the same location.

Photos courtesy of John Fretz

at [the same intersection] that was newly done this spring automatically had the steel reinforcement.

Mayor Peter Trent has said infrastructure quality control is a priority. It's a big catch-up job.

On a brighter note, early one morning on Sherbrooke near Lansdowne, I saw a Public Works crew tarring pavement cracks and gargantuan potholes. It was a delight to watch this top-notch team. The sweeper made a concerted effort to ensure the repaired edges were sharp and clean,

the supervisor gestured several times for more hot asphalt to be spread so that the macadam was perfectly even. The driver of the roller compactor had a dizzying skill at manoeuvring. Conducting the operation in morning traffic required vigilance, and the supervisor kept a sharp eye in placing the safety cones.

Our Public Works does an admirable job. Contracting out just doesn't seem to have the same commitment even though there are good companies available.

JOHN FRETZ, SHERBROOKE ST.

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Audited by  Canadian
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OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9
Fax: 514.935.9241

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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Accident-free season reported

Pool closure provides time to correct puddles, study counts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the Westmount pool closed for the season, it is now an appropriate time for Sports and Recreation officials to meet with Westmount recreation centre contractor Pomerleau to discuss several deficiencies that have come to light over the summer, said operations manager Andrew Maislin.

His main concern, he said, are puddles on the pool deck though some cracks have emerged, which Maislin described as "quite normal" after the break-in settling period.

One particular pooling of water near the outside showers was reported at the council meeting August 3 by a user who said it caused slippery and smelly conditions (see story August 18, p. 1).

At the September 8 council meeting,

Councillor Rosalind Davis reported that the pool had been accident-free and commended life guards for what she described as "a terrific job" under often challenging conditions of heat and numbers of users.

No serious incidents

There were a few scraped knees and Band-Aid type of incidents but no serious ones that required rescue or Urgences Santé transport, explained Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

While pool counts have yet to be reviewed for scheduling next summer, this would be done over the coming months. "We sold over 6,000 facility cards this [calendar] year, more than the past, but these were for the rinks, pool and tennis combined," Maislin said. "I'm ordering 6,500 for next year."

Westmount aims for all-girl teams at inter-city level

By JOANNE PENHALE

Girls' participation in competitive hockey is set to grow in Westmount.

"The eventual goal is to get enough girls from Westmount to have all-girl teams in the single-letter programming," said Andrew Maislin, operations manager at Westmount Sports and Recreation. "Just like the boys."

Single-letter programming, he said, is competitive inter-city hockey for 7 to 17 year olds. Teams from Westmount are matched against similarly skilled teams from the region, in A, B and C leagues.

"We have seen an increase in girls' participation in hockey in Westmount, a huge increase. And it's still gaining momentum," Maislin said. He attributed the increase to Westmount's girls' instructional programming, which began in 2013. Some girls already play in single-letter programming on teams composed almost exclusively of boys.

"We have four girls registered to participate in inter-city hockey this year," Maislin said, out of a total of 216 players. This is up from three girls last year, he said.

Of the girls registered for this season – which begins this month – three are in

the atom category, for players 9 and 10 years old, Maislin said, and a fourth is at the Midget level, for players 15 to 17.

Generally, when Atom girls graduate to the next category, Pee wee, Maislin said, they tend to leave co-ed hockey.

Their preference is single-sex hockey, he said, "or they stop playing, unfortunately."

Maislin said he could only speculate as to why that drop-off in co-ed hockey occurs, and noted governing body Hockey Quebec has never had any regulations preventing girls and young women from playing on inter-city teams.

In Westmount, he explained, girls have options.

Aside from co-ed inter-city hockey, he said, they can also join an exclusively girls' program called Hockey Elite Girls involving Westmount and seven other cities.

And girls and boys can sign up for Westmount's single-sex hockey instructional programs, Maislin said. Fifty-eight girls are registered this year to improve skills like skating, stick and puck handling, positioning, and theory, he said, compared to 46 girls who registered in 2013. The boys' instructional program, he said, has 100 participants registered.

Some Westmount parents prefer their daughters play on inter-city teams that may be otherwise all boys, Maislin said, and one reason is exclusively girls' teams force Westmounters to travel around the city.

But, Maislin said, people really want all-girl teams at the inter-city level.

A minimum of 12 girls would be needed to make an inter-city atom team, Maislin said, and the way to achieve that is to develop skills and confidence in players. He said he doubts anyone would opt out of an all-girl team in favour of a co-ed team, although everyone would have the option to do so.

"We're not going to deter anyone from playing in one area or another," he said.

"I would like to see girls having a choice," said Westmounter Joanne Kay, whose 10-year-old daughter Toby is one of the three Westmount girls registered for Atom level inter-city hockey. She added having a girls' team in the single-letter leagues would definitely attract more girls to hockey.

"I'd like to see more girls in hockey, period," she said.

"[Toby] has been playing Westmount co-ed since she was four," Kay said. "She's just had the greatest groups of kids: these boys have always been welcoming and re-

spectful... She doesn't feel different."

One reason girls may stop playing co-ed hockey at the Pee wee level, Kay said, is competitive all-girls' hockey really picks up at that age, recruiting players with the potential to get streamed into university and national teams.

Kay also said inter-city hockey gets more physical at the Bantam level just after pee-wee, and that turns girls off.

By the time boys have gone through their growth spurt, she said, "Their size and their power is often intimidating for girls."

CEGEP becomes 7th local school at WRC Hockey season kicks off with Dawson home-opener, evaluations

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Dawson College men's hockey team has become the seventh Westmount school to adopt the Westmount recreation centre as its home ice.

The latest addition was announced at the city council meeting September 8 by Councillor Rosalind Davis, commissioner of Sports and Recreation, in explaining the local CEGEP's home-opener would take place September 12.

On tap was a special puck-dropping to follow a surprise presentation of Dawson hockey sweaters to two former Dawson team members: city director general Mike Deegan and Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

"We secretly got their (previous) numbers for their sweaters," said department operations manager Andrew Maislin.

The Dawson team, which previously rented ice time in Verdun, has now switched to the WRC "which makes sense because it's close by and is cutting edge," Maislin said. Other schools renting ice time, he said, are Selwyn House, Westmount High, Villa St. Marcelline, St. George's, The Study and ECS.

Earlier in the day, the department began its evaluation of some 219 youth hockey players who had registered by September 9 in record numbers for an inter-city team, he said. "Everyone will be assigned to a team depending on their level of skill."

Some will have already been accepted for higher double-letter teams, leaving those in Westmount's inter-city teams and being assessed for single-letter A, B and C teams.

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Semi-annual sports banquet awards winners



Westmount's Sports and Recreation department's semi-annual sports banquet took place the evening of September 9 at Victoria Hall. Left: "Cape Breton" and "Halifax" tied in the 2015 soccer season in the Novice girls' division. Right: Norway was the 2015 season winner in the Novice boys' division, seen here with Councillor Rosalind Davis.

Photos courtesy of Sports and Recreation department

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Vermin-infested after 1998 fire

Court authorizes city to demolish Dorchester 'hazard'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work was launched recently by the city

remained of a former three-storey apartment building at 4216 Dorchester destroyed by fire in 1998. It was adjacent to

BBQ coals ignited roof

The fire had destroyed the third floor of the building April 25, 1998 after barbecue



Left: An archived photo shows how fire ravaged the apartment building near the southwest corner of Dorchester and Greene April 25, 1998, as seen from the roof of the RCMP building. Right: Already weeded by the city September 8, the remains of this former apartment building at 4216 Dorchester were being prepared for demolition by the city.

Photos: Laureen Sweeney

to prepare the remains of a long-abandoned, vermin-infested building for demolition, Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the *Independent* September 8. The city had obtained a court order May 28.

"It's an extraordinary measure," she said, "but the site was a public health hazard. We were left with no choice."

The basement foundation is all that had

the former Quebec Order of Nurses building near Greene. A for-sale sign has been posted at the site for several months.

The city obtained the demolition judgment from Superior Court judge Claudine Roy ordering owner Jean Apollon to completely demolish the building and clean the site. If he failed to do so, the ruling authorized the city to do the work at the owner's expense and add it to the tax bill.

The judgment was rendered by default under Quebec's law respecting land use planning and development, *Loi sur l'aménagement et l'urbanisme* (RLRQ, c. A-19.1).

coals ignited the roof. The remaining floors were subsequently taken down to the level of the foundation. This left the rear of the basement rising a storey high at the rear lane, where the land drops off.

The property had become overgrown with weeds, infested by vermin and the subject of many neighbourhood complaints, explained Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning, who also represents the district.

The city is coordinating the demolition work by a contractor. "I want to be sure the vermin are exterminated before the demolition starts," she said.

Pierced hose floods Lansdowne/Westmount Ave.

A hose sprung a leak September 5 at Lansdowne and Westmount Ave. causing water to flood the street, Public Security officials said. Work related to rehabilitation of the water main has been under way for some time resulting in the installation of hoses to provide a temporary water supply to houses on Westmount Ave. Patrollers answering a call from a resident over the problem at 5:12 pm said the hose had been "pierced." It was reported to have been fixed by 7:30 pm.

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Bike route questioned

cont'd. from p. 1

eastbound route on Westmount Ave. to work in unison with the one going west. Both are now expected to be in operation in mid-October, Councillor Philip Cutler later told the *Independent*.

Mayor Peter Trent, also a Côte Rd. resident, disagreed with Anderson that a bike path would compromise the street's heritage status and said narrowing the street would likely reduce speeding. He also said it was a pilot project to collect needed data on which residents could then be consulted. But on other points, he said, "you might be absolutely right...Let's find out what the problems are."

Councillor Philip Cutler said the proposed pilot project involved only the painting of white lines and was a very simple way to test the concept.

Resident: 'Don't take away my street'

"Please don't take away my street," pleaded another resident, who lives on the south side, where current north-side parking would be shifted.

She explained how the street had become very busy after she moved there, and she did not want the issue further compounded.

Cutler noted that cyclists already had the right to ride on the street and said that the bike path might actually improve the situation since cyclists taking the eastbound bike path on Westmount Ave. might reduce the number on Côte Rd.

Clara Gutsche of Kensington Ave. said that as a pedestrian, "I feel my safety is compromised by bicyclists." Trying to cross the de Maisonneuve path was "potentially lethal." Another route on Côte St. Antoine raised safety concerns for those walking to and from King George (Murray) Park.

The behaviour of cyclists has been improving," explained Marilyn Gillies of the newly re-named Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount. Citing her experience in monitoring cyclists, she said she has noticed that cars also go through red lights.

"There will be a trial [on Côte St. Antoine], and we will see," Councillor Cynthia Lulham stated at one point.



Clara Gutsche of Kensington Ave. injects a concern for pedestrian safety to the bike path issue September 8.

So long to 720's Greene entrance



Take a last look at the Greene Ave. on-ramp to autoroute 720, seen here September 2. Beginning September 4 until the early morning of September 8, the entrance, which closed on August 20, was to have been demolished as part of the work to build the future route 136. This is to replace the A-720. The work necessitated the complete closure of Atwater Ave. between René Lévesque Blvd. and St. Antoine St., although Greene Ave. remained open in both directions.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Selby closes permanently



Looking south under the Ville Marie expressway from Greene Ave., one can now see directly down to St. Antoine St. following demolition of the prominent greystones that dominated Selby St. at the curve. Selby was recently closed permanently as part of the Turcot project for which Transport Quebec expropriated the land. It is understood that the area is to be filled in and the street and sidewalks removed to become part of the embankment or berm required for the lowering of the Ville Marie expressway.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Westmount Historical Association's first lecture of the fall season is "The Lives of 500 Claremont: From Protestant Home to Jewish Orphanage to Catholic Residence," with speakers François Breton and Manny Cohen. Westmount Public Library at 7 pm. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: 514.989.5510 or www.westmounthistorical.org.

The choir of Ascension of Our Lord Parish in Westmount starts choir practice today for the new season, which runs until mid-June. It is seeking new members.

Prohibited weapon seized

Public safety officers reported confiscating a prohibited butterfly knife – a folding pocket knife with two handles – September 1 from a group of homeless people. They were discovered asleep in the Tupper parking lot at 1:35 am by a patroller. Public Security officials said the two women and a man were sent on their way, and the knife was turned over to police. It was not determined to whom it belonged.

It provides music for Sunday mass, including the Christmas and Easter liturgies. Rehearsals are Thursday 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Being Catholic is not a pre-requisite. Info: music director David Szanto 514.899.0548 or davidszant@hotmail.com.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents speaker Zita Cobb, president and CEO of Shorefast Foundation and innkeeper of Fogo Inn on "Fogo Island: Finding New Ways with Old Things," 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Members free; non-members \$10.

The Westmount bridge club starts its new season. It is looking for new members with a basic knowledge of bridge. Play is at Victoria Hall, Monday evenings from 7 to 10 pm. Before September 21, players can give it a try for no charge. Info: Don Huffman 514.932.0128.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

"When the Stone Talks," an exhibition of contemporary Zimbabwean stone sculpture at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until October 7.



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Police Report

Jeweler robbed, shoes stolen from apartment building

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

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

A jewelry store on Greene Ave. near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. was robbed sometime after 5 pm on August 31 when the store closed and 7 am the following morning when an employee no-

ticed the theft.

According to police, the store employee reported having carefully locked all the doors.

Upon returning the next day, the employee noticed that items of merchandise had been moved or were missing from a display case. A rear door was also found to be unlocked and ajar. It is assumed that the suspect left by the back door.

However, exactly how the suspect man-

aged to get in remains unknown, according to Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "It's undetermined because we did not find any traces of infraction," he said, meaning there were no signs of a forced entry.

de Maisonneuve building robbed

A pair of shoes was stolen in the early hours of August 27 from a hallway in an apartment building on de Maisonneuve Blvd. after an intruder managed to enter using a main entrance key, which had been left in an envelope in the lobby.

According to the police report, around 2:30 am the suspect, who had been seen on previous occasions wandering through the neighbourhood in the middle of the night, was spotted by the building superintendent.

"They have a doorman for days and the evening shift, but not at night, and he left the key in an envelope for one of the residents," said Pimentel. "Unfortunately the suspect who was out walking saw this opportunity and went in. First thing he saw was a pair of shoes, and he decided to take them."

It's never a good idea to leave a key out in the open, added the Station 12 officer. He said the building's front door locks have since been changed. As well, evidence of the intrusion was captured on a video camera in the lobby, which may prove useful during an investigation that is under way.

Purse stolen at McDonald's

On September 8 around 6 pm, a 54-year-old Montreal woman, who had ordered a meal at the McDonald's restaurant at Sherbrooke and Claremont, briefly returned to the counter while leaving her purse at her seat. When she returned, the purse had been stolen.

Among the items in the purse was a wallet containing \$25 and personal identification. According to Station 11 community relations officer Stephan Laperriere, it's a mistake to leave valuables unprotected in a public place even if it's only for a moment.

In this particular case, he said, the victim's table was near the exit, allowing the perpetrator to leave without a trace. "It's always a high risk to leave personal effects unsupervised in a public area in a restaurant," Laperriere said.

Cars broken into on summit

Two car break-ins occurred in broad daylight around the same time on September

5 and 6 near Westmount's summit.

On September 5, sometime between 12:30 and 1:30 pm, a 2012 Mercedes Benz with Ontario license plates parked on Summit Cr. was broken into.

The perpetrator smashed the front and rear passenger windows in order to get in and steal a computer bag containing an Apple MacBook Pro, an Apple iPad and some memory keys.

At around the same time the following day on nearby Devon Ave., a similar break-in was reported involving a Mitsubishi Lancer, also with Ontario plates.

In this second case, the windows weren't broken, but a rear passenger-side door was forced. The thieves took a small backpack containing keys, a wallet, jewelry and cash.

Laperriere's advice to anyone transporting valuables by car is at least to make sure they are completely out of sight so as not to tempt criminals who specialize in smash-and-grab theft.

Back-to-school road safety campaign under way

Motorists driving through the Westmount area are advised to be careful about following the rules of the road as police from Station 12 are conducting an enforcement operation coinciding with back-to-school until September 27.

Each year around this time, the Montreal police conduct this operation during which they are much less tolerant of motoring infractions, such as exceeding the 30-kilometre-per-hour speed limit near schools.

It's not unusual during this time for motorists to find themselves being flagged down and handed a ticket with the added penalty of demerit points. According to Pimentel, police from Station 12 will be deployed on varying days outside Westmount's schools.

The list of infractions they'll be watching for is long, although some of the more common ones are failing to obey a stop sign or a red light, passing a school bus when its flashers are on and failing to obey a crossing guard's order to stop.

Pedestrians could find themselves being ticketed for crossing a street against a red light, as could school bus drivers if they fail to follow highway code safety rules, which include assuring that all passengers on the bus are seated when the vehicle sets off. "Everybody should be aware of these rules," said Pimentel.

Pound kicks off Atwater Library's lunchtime talks



The Atwater Library began its new season of public talks September 3 with Westmounter Richard Pound, who spoke about his new book *Made in Court: Supreme Court Cases that Shaped Canada*. Pound is a lawyer and past president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, former chancellor of McGill University, and past vice president of the International Olympic Committee. The library's free, donation-requested "Lunchtime Series" mostly takes place on Thursdays at 12:30 pm at 1200 Atwater Ave. They are "presentations by leading writers, musicians, intellectuals, scientists, and many more people sharing their knowledge and experience" says the website.

Photo: Matt Faigan

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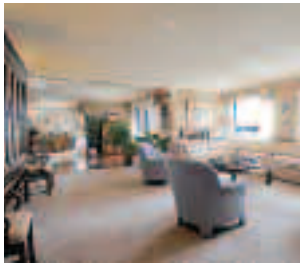


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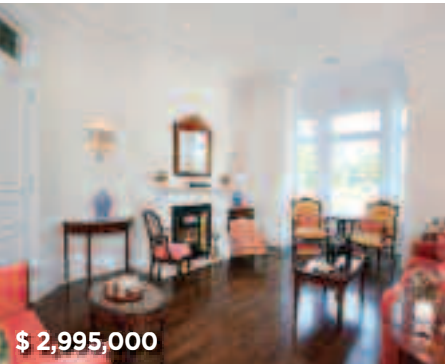
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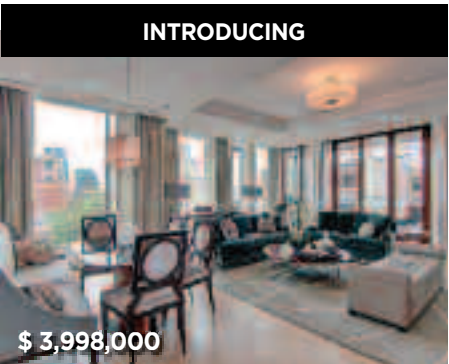
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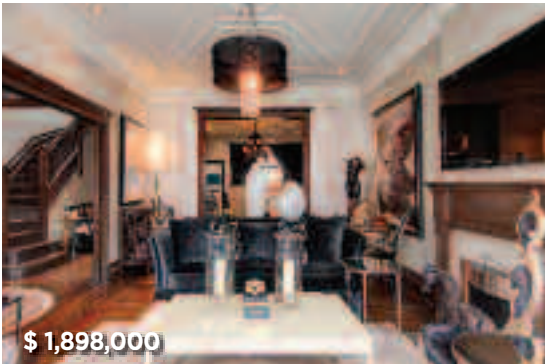
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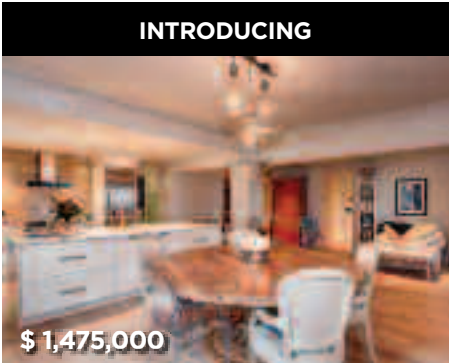
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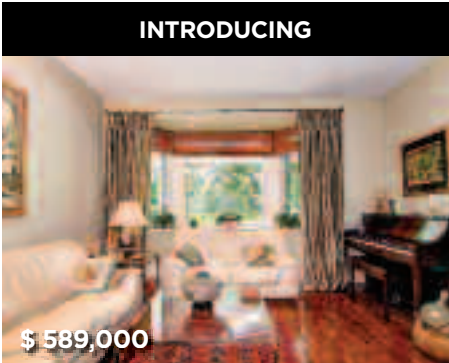
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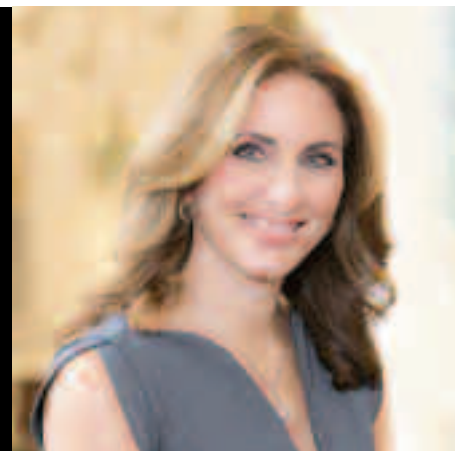
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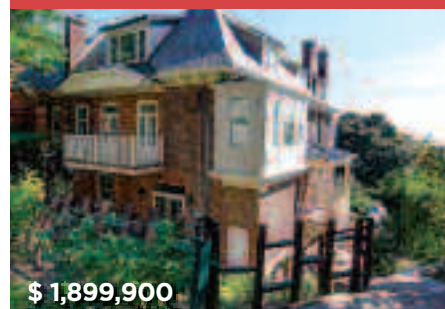
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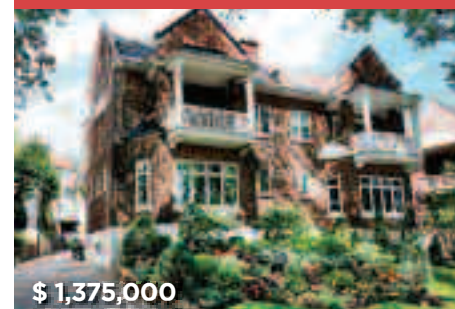
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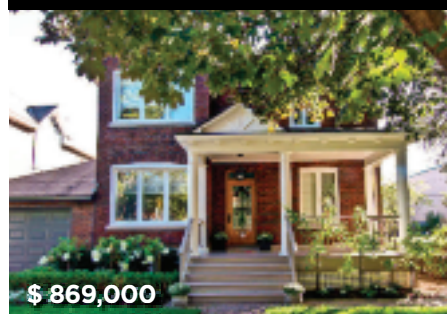
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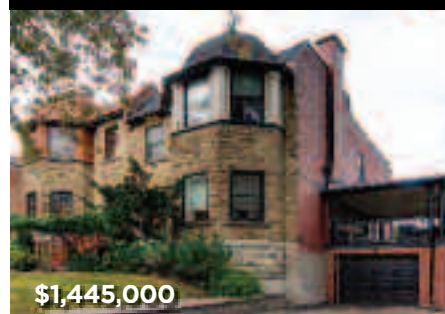
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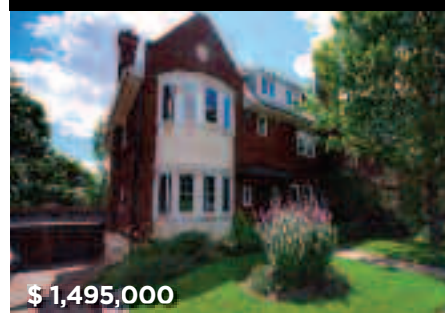
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August sales: No vacation for real estate agents



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in August 2015. Because they are not final registered sales, the ad-

resses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount real estate agents were complaining to us last month that they weren't getting any time for vacations, considering the interest in local property.

Indeed, 11 sales have been posted for August, compared with five in the month last summer and only two in August 2013. In fact, only four times since 2000 have there been more sales in August. This may

be because of the falling Canadian dollar, and the fact that Westmount is the first choice for wealthier foreign buyers, though that does not explain the falling prices compared to earlier this spring.

Two of the houses sold in August had been on the market for almost two years and another for almost a year, helping pull up the average days-on-market to 213 compared with 155 in July.

Five of the 11 properties sold below municipal evaluation and the average price was three percent below valuation. Highest price in August was \$3,500,000, but that was for a house evaluated at more than \$4.7 million, so the 26 percent mark-down was by far the biggest of the month.

The highest mark-up was 28 percent and the lowest price was \$621,000 – still more than the asking price – which was the only sale under \$1 million. While the average price in August was just under \$1.6 million, the adjusted average, thanks largely to the mark-downs, dropped to about \$1,530,000, its lowest point since April 2014.

Three condominium sales were posted in August; added to one in July that brings the third-quarter total to four so far, compared with six in the second quarter and nine in the first quarter of 2015. For each time period, the average mark-up has hovered between eight and nine percent, up only 0.5 continued on p. 17

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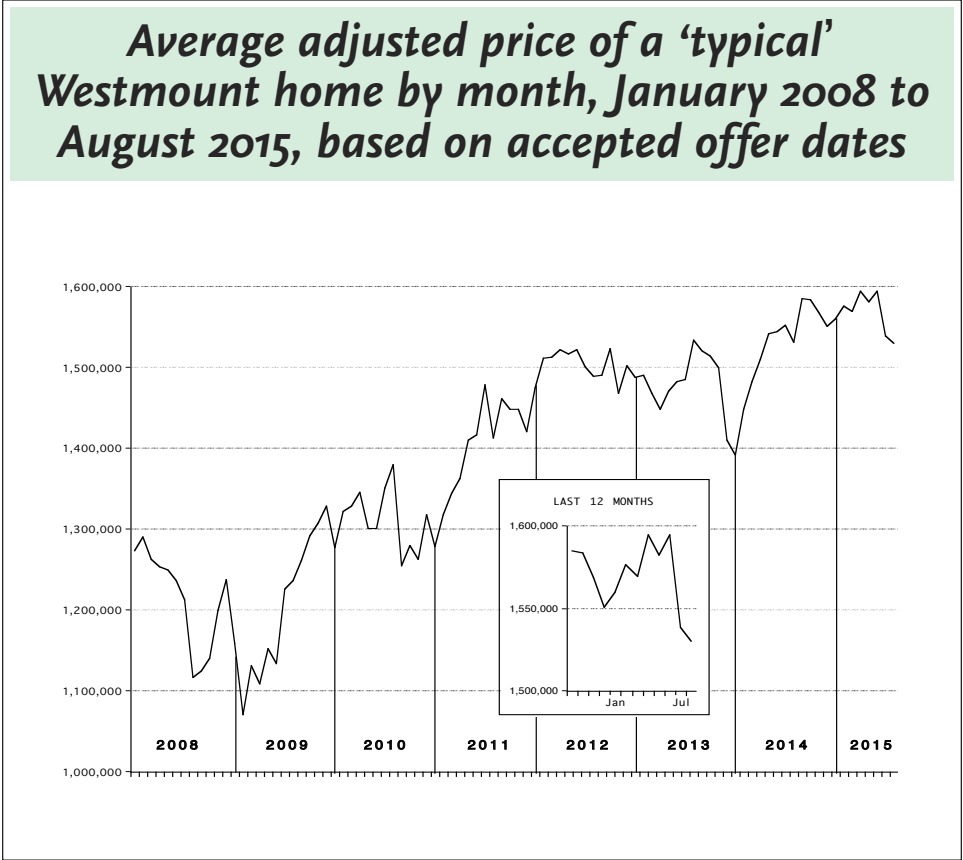
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WESTMOUNT
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percent compared with the 2014 sales.

In adjacent-Westmount areas, a very busy July (11 sales) was followed by only two house sales in August, both in eastern NDG, for prices hovering around \$800,000. So far this year, among one- and two-family properties, 27 of 56 or nearly half have been over \$1 million, but only five over \$2 million compared to 15 of 104 within the city limits.

Despite the higher number of sales, at last check there are now 160 houses listed for sale in Westmount, up from 154 a month ago. Sixteen of these are asking between \$4 million and \$8.68 million, while only 13 are asking less than \$1 million.

House rentals

The number of houses available for rent – from \$2,000 to \$25,000 per month – stayed at 22, the same number as in both June and July. To date this year some 20 houses have been rented, almost all between \$2,700 and \$8,000 per month, though one is bringing its owner \$20,000 per month.

Hot water tank bursts, floods basements

Firefighters were called to a house on Forde Ave. near Côte St. Antoine September 4 when a hot water tank burst, damaging the basement as well as a neighbour's, Public Security officials said. The incident was discovered around 3:25 pm. Firefighters managed to push open a rear door and shut off the water at the source house. Public safety officers managed to obtain a contact number for the resident, who was out of town.

Work without permit costs \$1,279

A ticket for \$1,279 was issued to a contractor whose subcontractor was found working without a valid permit to occupy two parking-meter spaces, Public Security officials said. A patroller discovered the work in progress September 2 at 10:06 pm, after permitted hours. The meters were located outside 4060 St. Catherine St. The contractor's permit had expired two days earlier. The subcontractor was given a verbal warning.



Galerie Alan Klinkhoff



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“Throughout my career as art dealer I have been an admirer and enthusiastic supporter of the work of Sam Borenstein. [...] I noticed it early on and once asked Mr. Watson [Watson Gallery] as I was then calling him: ‘Don’t you think Borenstein is a very good artist?’ ‘No,’ he replied emphatically, ‘he is a great artist.’ He always had some of his paintings in his gallery and told me that two he had at home were among his favourites. At that time in the mid-fifties, the great van Wisselingh firm of Amsterdam held yearly exhibitions at Watson’s, showing Van Goghs, Renoirs and generally great paintings. One of the partners, Mr. de Jong, once challenged me: ‘Do you know who Canada’s best painter is?’ When I hesitated, he said: ‘Sam Borenstein, no doubt about it.’”

Walter H. Klinkhoff, *Reminiscences of an Art Dealer*
Montreal, 1993.



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Missing boy found safe

Public safety officers searched Westmount Park and the library August 28 when a man reported his 10-year-old son missing at 6:59 pm, Public Security officials report. Police were called in to help. The boy was found when he called his mother to say he was at a friend's house nearby. A mix-up in times was believed responsible.

Officers said the boy had been seen waiting at the library for a long time for his father on previous occasions.



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Hit by car, woman suffers minor scrapes

A woman was reported hit by a car at Victoria and de Maisonneuve September 3, Public Security officials said. The 74-year-old resident of Montreal West suffered minor scrapes to the left elbow and refused transport to hospital. The driver of the car remained on the scene after the accident at 2:10 pm.

Unconscious woman helped on Roslyn

A parking inspector called for assistance September 2 after finding a 64-year-old woman unconscious on the ground outside 470 Roslyn, Public Security officials said. On the arrival of a patroller just after 5:29 pm, the woman had regained consciousness and was taken to hospital by police. She explained it was second such incident that day. The Montreal resident had a history of health problems.



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Lagoon awash in activity



On a hot and humid Labour Day Monday at the lagoon, Westmounter John Sgouromitis, an engineer with Pratt & Whitney, puts his radio-controlled tunnel-hull boat (circled) through its paces much to the amusement of bystanders and to the excitement of a West Highland terrier, who chased it along the shore. Onlookers included Mohankumar Vengatachalam and Suvitha Mohankumar (foreground).

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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La plupart des électeurs sont déjà inscrits, mais si vous avez déménagé récemment ou pensez déménager avant l'élection, vous devrez peut-être mettre à jour votre adresse.

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Élections Canada a toute l'information dont vous avez besoin pour être prêt à voter.



**Prêt
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Le 19 octobre 2015



Moved recently? Make sure you're ready to vote.

Federal election day is Monday, October 19. Are you registered to vote?

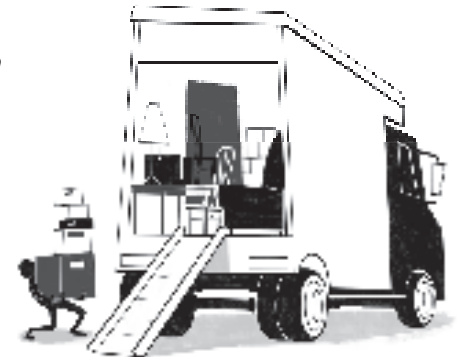
Most voters are already registered. But if you've moved recently or are planning a move before election day, you may need to update your address.

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Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.



**Ready
to vote**

October 19, 2015



Man spotted defacing election poster

A 69-year-old Westmount resident was intercepted “glueing” a message onto a Liberal party election poster September 5, Public Security officials said. The sticker was removed from the sign outside 4941 Sherbrooke, and the man was warned against the graffiti. He was spotted at 11:25 am. His identity was not revealed.

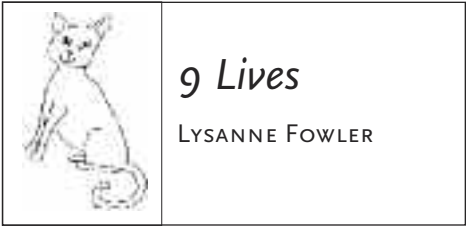
Boosted fines on tap for wayward dog owner

Public Security officials reported they were requesting that Montreal municipal court allow them to increase the cost of tickets to a Westmount dog owner described as a repeat offender dating back to 2010.

More recently, the man was to receive two tickets for walking his unlicensed and off-leash dog September 3 in the Westmount Athletic Grounds. The new ticket cost could be as high \$440. When the man was later found in the WAG September 7 at 3:42 am, he was told he would be issued another ticket. It was also reported he was told there could be a warrant out for his arrest if he did not comply with city regulations.

Another dog walker was issued a ticket at the regular price of \$76 September 3 when her dog was also spotted off leash at the WAG.

Friendly Hoppy



Hoppy is a delightfully affectionate grey domestic shorthair, a real cuddle bug. A very healthy senior, she enjoys lying in a sunny spot for a nap or curling up on someone working at a desk.

Hoppy is spayed and vaccinated, active and playful. She is one of those special cats that has extra toes. She has cute double thumbs on her front paws.

Her owner had to move in to a nursing home, so it would be important that Hoppy find her place in a new family as soon as possible.

For more information on Hoppy, please contact Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Mudrooms that don't get muddy



On the Lighter Side

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

My sister recently renovated her kitchen. With finite room available, we explored all options for clever storage ideas and magical creations of space where none existed previously.

Our quest led us to endless books, magazines and websites devoted to The Mudroom.

Notwithstanding that the average mudroom presented was perfectly scaled for Ultimate Frisbee – ergo a full 16 times the size of her ground floor – we felt we could mine these sources for some kind of shrewd inspiration.

Well, inspired we were!

Until that point, we had failed to appreciate the value of “accessories” in a utilitarian space. But now we were repeatedly confronted with all manner of decorative wreaths, fragile vases, jaunty straw hats, sentimental signs (Live, Love, Laugh), dried flowers and lavish quantities of wicker.

There was the occasional, impeccably-aligned pair of (never-worn) shoes and sometimes even a whimsical (perfectly dry) rain slicker. *Hung up.*

Many mudrooms had extravagant cabinetry and more pillows than a sheikh's harem. They frequently included fetching cubbies and matching colourful watering cans on upper shelves. (To irrigate the upholstery?)

Others adopted some particular shade of white as their “colour scheme” and contained one or two pieces of “art,” a few stark angles and a grand total of zero loose items. The Minimalist Mudroom if ever there was!

Moreover, every single one – from Spartan to rustic – included a feature that we had neglected to incorporate into our own cottage mudroom: Visible Floor.

What we did not find was any evidence whatsoever of human life. Nor any garbage cans. Nor brooms. Not even charming feather dusters which, given the surfeit of *tchotchkes*, would not have been entirely inappropriate.

But most dramatic of all was the notable absence of the eponymous mud. Clearly anyone who had mudrooms such as these did not need them!

I had seen numerous surgical suites less spacious, organized and hygienic. By contrast, I could hula hoop in the centre of these mudrooms without stirring a dust mite, and I could lick their floors with impunity (were I not to risk sully them with my germy tongue.)

Our own choice for mudroom flooring at the cottage was a novel and durable material composed of a compact tangle of electrical cords, sailing rope, bungees and dental floss, densely impregnated with pet fur, bug spray, gravel, ski wax, drier lint and slush.

For our decorating scheme we opted for an ornamental balance of Play it Again Sports, hardware store, goodwill and pantry – all pleasantly intermixed by a recently detonated bomb.

Knowing well that our kids put the “ha!” in hangers, we mounted 2,000 or so hooks, each of which became quickly draped in 45 items, like a vertical textile archeological site awaiting excavation.

Make no mistake – I am unfailingly organized. Each season I label our (non-wicker) baskets with the contents therein. After all, how else would I know to look in the “glove” basket for the neck warmers or the “neck warmer” basket for the tuques? That not a single member of my family has bought into this magnificent system has inspired a

continued on p. 22



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Westmounter Marianne Cecilia Cole was practising Sirasana (headstand yoga pose) in Westmount Park around 4:30 pm September 1. She is a yoga and pilates instructor and also an art history student.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

A ‘pit’ by any other name

The Underdog Club

JANE DAVEY

There has been some public discussion about renaming the breed because people often react fearfully to the name alone. And these days, as anyone owning a pit bull knows, you have to remain unfazed by those passing by you as if they’d just seen a ghost.

As with other canine breeds, like Rottweilers, Dobermans and even German shepherds, the breed isn’t the problem; it’s the humans who misuse it by training or breeding it for aggression.

Krome, our underdog of the day, is a Staffordshire-terrier-pit-bull mix. We’re told it’s rare to find a pittie in a shelter at the ripe old dog age of 8 because most are euthanized well before then. Krome found his way into the SPCA Annexe because his owner, try as she might, could not find housing that would allow dogs.

His present caretakers say he just



“looooooves people.” They describe him as a “gentle soul and wonderful company,” who was raised with children in the house and is deemed fine for older, dog-savvy kids. Krome is apparently partial to “romantic walks in the park, watching television while munching on milk bones and hot dogs, and just hanging out with you.”

He doesn’t like being left alone for hours on end and would love it if his adopter had a flexible schedule.

Krome’s overall health is great as far as his caretakers can tell, and they say his happy “youthfulness” defies his age.

If you’d like to be the proud new owner

of Krome so you can walk down the street together heads held high, oblivious to passers-by making wide detours around you, please contact the SPCA Annexe by email annexe@spcamontreal.com to arrange a date with this darling.

He’ll be one wearing a rose in his collar.

.....
cont’d. from p. 21

great deal of ire, leading my kids to coin the pithy phrase that “there is madness to my method.”

But on most days we cheerfully embrace multi-functional: our storage benches doubling as compost bins and our sink-hole-resembling tool box as cat litter.

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a été rempli et signé à Côte Saint-Luc, le 18-08-2015, par Stephanie Pang.

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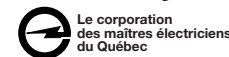
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‘Hats off’ to Chapeau Mont Royal!



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The annual Chapeau Mont Royal event, held at Mount Royal Chalet on June 8 was another smash success, raising \$160,000. Ladies and gentlemen arrived suitably attired, wearing hats ranging from classic top hats and Eton-style straw boaters for men to huge floppy hats and fashionable

fascinators for ladies. A stand-out was local res **Ann Birks** who wore a hat with fish images that matched her outfit and was accessorized with red-and-white polka dot whirligigs. Les amis de la montagne founder and president Westmounter **Peter Howlett**, attending with his wife **Morag**, welcomed guests, who walked a long, long red carpet and an elegant receiving line manned by committee members and honorary president **Françoise Lyon**, senior vice president Pembroke wealth management, a Platinum sponsor along with CGI. Co-presidents were Les amis governors



From left: Peter Vamos, Morag and Peter Howlett.



From left: Mary Bruns Creighton, Françoise Lyon, Carole Labelle Molson, Judith Kavanagh and Kathryn Lund Drummond.

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From left: Andrew Lindsay, Charles De Kovachich, Jeff Drummond, Nicolas Ruel and Michael Bucheit.

Mary Bruns Creighton, Judith Kavanagh, Carole Labelle Molson and Kathryn Lund Drummond.

Westmounters noted seated at the luncheon tables with bright lime green chairs included Karin Austin, Pen and John Bridgman, Louise and Michael Bucheit, David Creighton, Julie Couture, Jeffrey Drummond, Vanessa Laframboise, Leslie Martino, Christine and Pierre Lapointe, Jill Hugussen, Sarah Ivory, Sara and Eugene Riesman, Elaine Rovinescu, Claire Webster, Valerie and Henry Price, as

well as Lalage Hacket, Andrew Lindsay, Charles De Kovachich, Sondra Palanghio, Honor Robertson, Lilliana Simpson and Les amis executive director Peter Vamos and Katie Whitehead, director of development and event organizer extraordinaire.

Noted amidst the Ascot-style finery were Christina Miller wearing a white fascinator and Hermès wrapped-wrist watch; Gwen Nacos, whose designer fuchsia jacket was accessorized with a substantial necklace of large rings; Diane Ferrara Scalia, Parisian-pretty in white and navy; artist Marigold Santos, whose massive black hat was reminiscent of Grace Jones; and artist Nicolas Ruel in a Matisse-bright-blue blazer.

The mouth-watering menu was created by Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth and included a seductive strawberry dessert with dripping colis. The *pièce de resistance* was the gift given to departing guests – gorgeous fuchsia umbrellas were donated by Formula Growth.

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.



From left: Pen Bridgman, Honor Robertson, Lalage Hacket and Ann Birks.



Diana Ferrara Scalla

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Manoir Westmount Inc.
4646 Sherbrooke Street West
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.....
cont'd. from p. 3

Until then, much needs to be done, said Andrew Maislin, Sports and Recreation operations manager, who is heading the café project.

This includes finalizing a redesign and furnishing of the café space in the WRC's roof-level pavilion – all in keeping with the WRC's gold level rating of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Preliminary plans call for the addition of a low wall with tall plantings at the south end to help muffle noise and provide ambience. Wood furniture, possibly of oak, has to be ordered along with upholstered banquettes. A large tree at the centre encircled by a banquette will provide a focal point. Maislin said he is also working toward obtaining certification of the kitchen.

"We want the café to be destination for the entire community," he said, "and to create a rustic and natural ambience."

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays!

Sign up by writing us:
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Abandoned



On September 1, a battered car with several tickets (see inset) was seen parked across a crosswalk on Côte St. Antoine at Mount Stephen. Public Security officials said they that seen the blue Hyundai August 27 as two people were pushing it across the intersection stating it had broken down and would be towed. When it was still there "badly parked" September 1 officers contacted police.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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North West corner unit, 1605 sf with astonishing views of the mountain. Renovator's dream MLS 9443527



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Beautiful, bright 2100 sf condo located in a very exclusive building. Open concept L/R and D/R, 2 balconies and parking. MLS 28591830



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1420 Av Des Pins \$798,000
Beautiful 2 Bdr condo in very exclusive downtown building w/private elevator access+garage MLS 26374800



NDG

5399 Grovehill Place \$695,000
Renovated ground floor condo w/garage and basement on very quiet street near Monkland Village MLS 12801833



NDG

4570 Coronation \$739,000
Perfect 5 Bdr family home! MLS 21917810



NEW

MOUNT ROYAL

240 Ch. Bates #311 \$372,000
Fabulous innovative loft style condo corner unit with views. MLS 13684694



NEW

OLD MONTREAL

Rue St-Pierre, apt. 370 \$449,000
Located in historical and magnificent Caverhill building is this fully renovated 933 sf loft style condo w/ garage



NEW

NUNS ISLAND

Verrieres V \$365,000
Beautiful 2 Bdr ground floor condo overlooking river, manicured ground & pool. MLS 27694605



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VICTORIA VILLAGE
OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM



86 SOMERVILLE

\$449,000 | MLS 25561280
Renovated 2 bdrm co-prop. w/balcony & PARKING! Steps to Super hospital! VALUE!

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OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM



388 OLIVIER #10

\$435,000 | MLS 19907963
LOCATION! 2 bdrm co-prop steps from Greene Avenue with garage!

WESTMOUNT ADJ.
OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM



5375 NDG AVENUE #209

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Fabulous 1,650 sq.ft. condo in a gorgeous gated community!

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WESTMOUNT AVENUE

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1210 DE MAISONNEUVE 17E

\$899,000 | JUST LISTED!
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MONKLAND VILLAGE



BRODEUR

\$599,000 | MLS 16842315
LOCATION! Lower 2,300 s.f. 3+1 bdrm condo w/bachelor, a/c, fp & steps to metro/village!

HAMPSTEAD



DUFFERIN

\$585,000 | JUST LISTED
Sunny 3 bdrm semi on HUGE corner lot on cul-de-sac w/garage, cent. air & tons of POTENTIAL!

ATWATER MARKET



100 VINET ST. APT. 302

\$435,000 | MLS 17571292
Turn-key 2 bdrm w/ central air, garage and courtyard views!

VERDUN



RUE GALT

\$425,000 | JUST LISTED
1,412 sq.ft. 3-storey 2+1 bdrm townhouse with parking and rooftop terrace w/panoramic views!

ATWATER MARKET



170 VINET ST. #106

\$429,000 | MLS 23274924
Renovated 1,060 s.f. 2 bdrm condo w/balcony, a/c, fp, garage, locker & facing a park!

WESTMOUNT



OLIVIER

\$1,495/month | MLS 18469786
3 bedroom penthouse with mountain views & only steps from Greene Avenue! Available immediately.

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THE TRAFALGAR

\$499,000 | MLS 12482519
1,950 sq.ft. in a historic landmark for a fraction of the price!

WESTMOUNT ADJ.



3445 RIDGEWOOD

\$350,000 | MLS 16396830
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Wishing all our clients, family & friends a healthy, happy & prosperous New Year!



Jill + Joan Prévost

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