

**Don't miss it** Federal candidates' debate (NDG-Westmount riding)  
Thursday, October 1 from 7 to 9 pm at Lower Canada College, 4090 Royal Ave.

The event will be hosted by CBC Montreal's Sonali Karnick and is sponsored by Simkin Legal, Lower Canada College, Second Cup and the *Westmount Independent*.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 9 No. 9e

*We are Westmount*

September 29, 2015

*City looks for answers*

## Cannon in limbo, awaiting solution to theft, vandalism

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The future remains uncertain for Westmount's two 1810 cannon as their restoration continues on hold, Mayor Peter Trent told the city council meeting September 8. They are being stored in pieces at Public Works until a decision can be made.

The bronze cannon with their rotting wooden carriages had been removed for refurbishing in 2006 from Westmount

Park, where they had been placed in 1899. Known generically as "brass cannon," they now risk being stolen or vandalized if put back, Trent explained, and the city has nowhere to display them inside.

"The trouble is those cannon have become extremely valuable," he said. "The price of bronze has skyrocketed, and the cost of restoration is huge." They might also become targets for graffiti or damage.

"I would love to see them back in the park," Trent said in reply-  
ing to a question on their *continued on p. 16*

## Art of stone carving at The Gallery

BY HEATHER BLACK

The exhibition "When the Stone Talks – The Art of Contemporary Zimbabwean Sculptors" opened on September 23 at The Gallery at Victoria Hall.

For exhibition curator Fran Fearnley, this exhibition of work by 15 artists reflects the di-  
*continued on p. 7*



Sculptor Walter Mariga, left, and curator Fran Fearnley of ZimArt with the sculpture *Confident Woman* at the "When the Stone Talks" vernissage at The Gallery at Victoria Hall September 23.

**Letters** p. 6

**Social Notes** by V. REDGRAVE p. 21

**9 Lives** by L. FOWLER p. 20

## Public Security arrests man cutting down election posters

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public safety officers apprehended a man defacing and cutting down election posters on Sherbrooke St. September 19 at 8 pm, Public Security officials said. He was ordered to throw the knife on the ground, was read his rights and detained for police.

In relating how the incident unfolded, department director Greg McBain said officers had received a call from someone who had seen posters being cut off poles at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor.

Responding to the complaint, they spotted an individual matching the description as he walked east along the south side of Sherbrooke.

As they observed him, he began cutting off another poster at which time they intercepted him, knife in hand, and called for police.

A man identified as a resident of Vendôme Ave. in NDG was taken into custody by police on their arrival at 8:14 pm. He was said to be aged around 50 or older. The signs being removed were described as from the NDP campaign.



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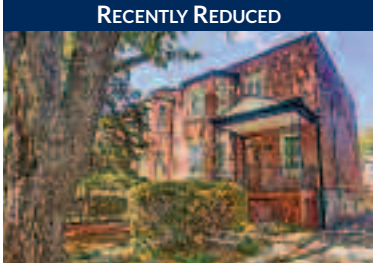
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# Changes in bill format, reference numbers

## New Hydro Westmount billing system goes live Sept. 28

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A “cutting edge” Hydro Westmount billing system was to go live this week providing a new look to bills featuring more information and new reference numbers,

said utility director Benoit Hurtubise. The software has been a year in implementation.

“The new reference number is a key element for customers paying through the bank or online,” he explained. More than 70 percent of customers now pay by internet.

The CIS Infinity software is a customer information and billing system already in use by most of the smaller independent electricity distributors in Quebec and by many electricity, gas and continued on p. 12



A sample of the top of the new bill showing a new reference number at the top (circled). Image courtesy of Hydro Westmount



Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise, seated at right, meets with the Customer Service administrative group that will be rolling out the new billing system this week. Also seated is Sylvia Tuccia. Standing, from left, are: Cecilia Emmanus, team coordinator Aldo Palao, Anniq Dufour and Julie Poulin. The photo was taken September 25 at their offices on Glen Rd.



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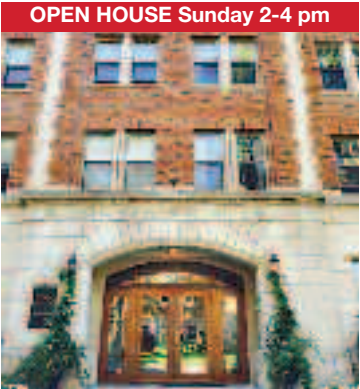
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Martin asks for Public Works to investigate

# Should Westmount follow Montreal's lead on sewers?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount will be looking into recent changes proposed by Montreal regarding sewer line responsibility to determine whether similar modifications might be in order for Westmount, Councillor Patrick Martin said last week.

Westmount property owners, similar to those in Montreal for many years, are responsible for the cost of repairs to the entire length of the sewer pipe that leads from their home to the connection with the sewer main in the street.

Martin, commissioner of Public Works, said he believed the section of the pipe under the street, however, should be maintained by the city since it is subject to vibration and damage caused by city trucks and other heavy vehicles that rumble on top of it.

Under proposed changes by Montreal, that city announced last month it would as-

sume responsibility for the portion lying on city land.

This is similar to the way Westmount divides up the responsibility for water entry pipes. Residents pay only the cost of maintenance on the portion from their home to the shut-off valve, which is typically at the edge of their property. The city is responsible from the shut-off valve to the connection in the street with the water main.

**What is Montreal doing**

"I brought this up at council's general committee meeting (September 21) and it was agreed to ask our Public Works to look into what Montreal was doing and why," explained Martin, commissioner of Public Works.

"On the other hand, I do see that in the construction of a new building, the entire expense of installing new water-entry and sewer-exit pipes should be borne by the property owner."





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# Empty Westmount Y pool filled, operating again Sept. 27

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Following a four-week dry spell when the pool at the Westmount YMCA was drained and empty, it was filled and open for business again by September 27.

“We repainted the walls of the pool area,” the branch’s executive director Christine Romero told the *Independent*. “And it looks good; it looks pretty nice.”

Romero said the walls around the pool hadn’t been painted in 15 years. At the same time, a system of ventilation tubes hanging from the pool area ceiling is also being replaced.

## **Last year pool shut for repainting**

Although the pool operates year round without having to be shut, last year was an exception, said Romero, when the pool basin itself needed to be painted.

“We don’t need to empty the pool every year because the system is good enough to clean the water. Quality of water is not an issue. Of course, we have to do maintenance every few years. Sometimes it’s the pool itself or the walls of the pool. Now it’s the walls around the pool, which are being redone, plus the ventilation tubes, which are also being replaced.”

Romero said that the pool work was just part of a larger renovation and improvement project undertaken at the Westmount Y over the past year.

## **Locker rooms re-done**

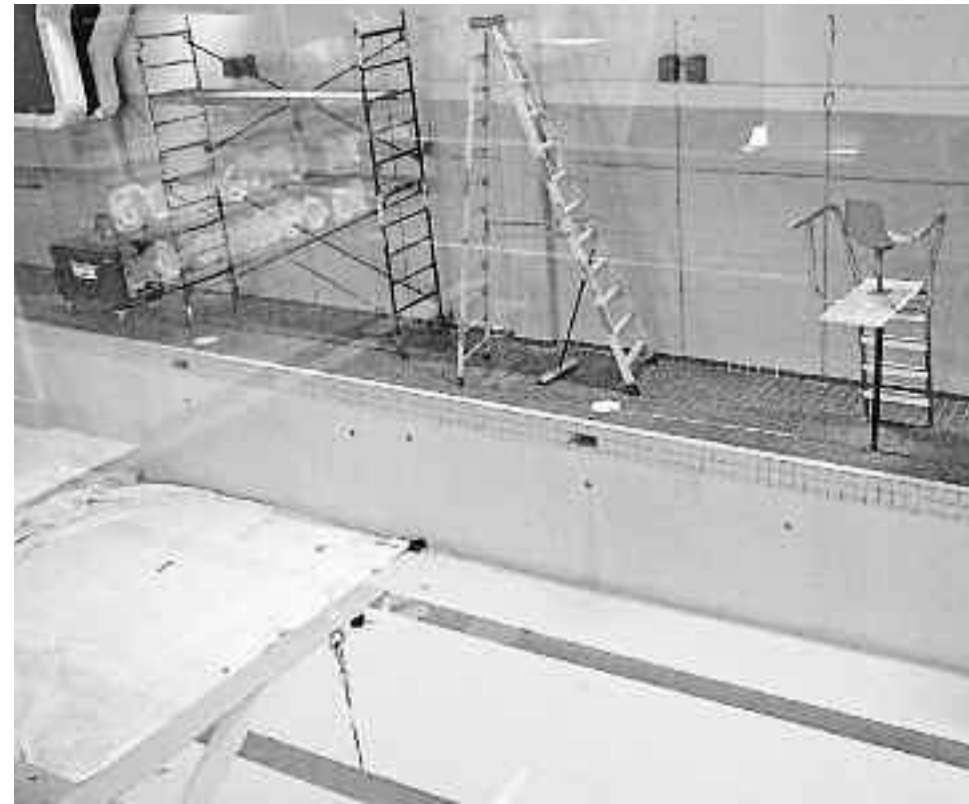
“All the locker rooms were redone – the women’s locker rooms, the family locker rooms and men’s locker rooms. Even the downstairs hallways have been refreshed and enlarged so it’s easier for everybody to circulate even with wheelchairs. It was needed.

“We also redeveloped the entrance area to give better access to a bathroom that wasn’t available to people coming in from outside,” she continued. “We made it a little bit more user-friendly, and we think the results are really good.”

Romero said Y officials plan to hold a public event in the next few weeks to showcase the improvements.

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The Westmount Y’s pool was dry September 17, as seen through the glass windows in the lobby.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESPONDING TO KAY’S  
LETTER RE: PIT BULLS

Barbara Kay’s most recent piece against “pit bulls” (“Not happy to see pit bull in Underdog column,” September 22, p. 6), propagates irrational fear and fails to focus on what we really need to do to make our community a safer place.

Let’s start by addressing the fact that “pit bulls” do not actually exist. Rather, the term “pit bull” refers to several breeds with similar physical characteristics, but whose genetics differ greatly: the American pit-bull terrier, the Staffordshire American terrier and the Staffordshire bull terrier. There is no evidence from any study of dog behaviour showing that any of these breeds are more aggressive than any other breed of dog.

Dogs often labelled as “pit-bull types”, are dogs with short stocky bodies and large heads who may not even have a drop of any of the above mentioned breeds in their DNA. Thus, other types of dogs, such as boxer mixes, are susceptible to being labelled “pit-bull type” dogs – a subjective categorization made entirely by the person giving the label.

Kay is clearly advocating for legislation

that would ban dogs that look a certain way – known as breed specific legislation (BSL). Research shows that BSL is not effective in reducing dog bites. Further, singling out specific dogs based on looks or breed ignores the underlying cause of dog aggression: irresponsible dog ownership. Veterinary boards and associations worldwide are opposed to BSL precisely for these reasons.

In a province where hundreds and thousands of animals are neglected, abandoned and mistreated, shouldn’t we be encouraging responsible dog ownership instead of promoting discrimination and fear mongering? Shouldn’t we be focused on making our communities safer using evidence-based measures, instead of vilifying dogs with big heads and squat bodies?

ALANNA DEVINE, DIRECTOR OF  
ANIMAL ADVOCACY, MONTREAL SPCA

WHY COVER THE TRUNK  
WITH ASPHALT?

On my regular walking route between the Atwater Library and the Westmount Public Library, I have recently been seeing an upsetting sight.

Look up into the leaves of this beautiful

ash tree at the southwest corner of Wood and de Maisonneuve, and all seems well (see photo below). That is, until you look down at its base to observe that some less than inspired city entity \* has ordered that the area directly surrounding the trunk be completely covered over with asphalt (see photo bottom).

Even taking into account that there is moisture below ground, I am wondering how long, or how well, our leafy friend can survive without access to rainwater from above? How long will it take for the city officials responsible to correct this problem?

SUSAN FITCH, SHERBROOKE ST.



Photos courtesy of Susan Fitch

\* Jayme Gerbrandt, horticulture inspector, city of Westmount, responds: The tree in question is a private tree located on private property. The area is landscaped in a similar fashion to Westmount property with a sidewalk and tree pit. Westmount does not have ownership over this land and tree, and the city was not responsible for the asphalt work at the base, which will surely be detrimental to the health of this privately owned tree. All city trees are located in green spaces or in sidewalks with grated tree pits to allow for adequate water penetration. In addition, it is important not to impede the growth of the trunk with objects or hard surfaces such as asphalt or cement.

Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Green – the focus of the polls. Which party is in the lead? Which seems to be losing or gaining support? This is mistaken.

Parties tend to see voters as easily manipulated with bogus promises. One should give one’s allegiance not to a party but to a candidate. On those occasions, when we had a problem with federal government bureaucracy, Marc Garneau’s office was unfailingly helpful.

If, in every constituency, voters would elect the most supportive candidate we would then have a government, of whatever party, dedicated to the interests of the citizenry.

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

REPORT ELECTION SIGNS  
VANDALISM

Shortly after the federal election was called, the Marc Garneau campaign put up its signs in the new electoral district of NDG-Westmount. Recently, more than 400 of these signs have either been stolen or vandalized.

The money to pay for these signs was donated by individual citizens and constitutes one of the ways these citizens choose to participate in our democratic process.

If you see an individual destroying or removing a sign, please send a note to contact@marcgarneau.ca.

We strongly encourage everyone, regardless of political affiliation, to show respect for the democratic process and not vandalize or remove signs.

ED VICKERY, SIGN CHAIR, MARC GARNEAU  
FOR NDG-WESTMOUNT CAMPAIGN

SPECIAL PARKING FOR  
‘IMPORTANT’ NEEDS?

Re: your story “New ‘pay-by-plate’ parking system set for April launch,” (September 15, p. 1), is there a “special” plate that allows people, especially the breed, though not exclusively, that drives SUVs, to double park on Greene Ave. apparently to do any or all of the following:

- get that latte they can’t live without;
- go to Jean Coutu and/or the post office;
- wait for someone to pull out even though no one is in the pulling-out car – I think of them as parking birds of prey who just hover – in front of 5 Saisons.

My personal fave was a guy getting new glasses at Harry Toulch while his SUV was double parked outside the door.

Recently, a perfectly pleasant young Westmount security person was extremely busy eyeing parking meters but seemed

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VOTE FOR CANDIDATE,  
NOT PARTY

En route to the upcoming federal election, the talk is as it tends to be of parties –

# Selwyn listed as WRC's biggest user of ice time

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount schools are using from 39 to 42 hours a week of regular contracted ice time this year at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week. Special events such as tournaments are extra.

Selwyn House is listed as the biggest user at 31 hours a week, some during and after school from November through February.

Dawson College is the next, reserving ice time from four to seven hours a week at various times. This is the CEGEP's first year, having moved to the WRC from Verdun (see story September 15, p. 7). St. George's uses the facility two hours a week after school while ECS and St. Marcelline have both booked it for one hour after school, Lapointe said.

While seven schools have been reported as users, Westmount High has not reserved any time "right now as they are in holding pattern due to teacher negotiations," Lapointe explained.

As well, while The Study used some ice time last year, it was not a regular time slot and the girls' school has not requested any for the current season, he said.

A 25-year agreement signed between the city and Selwyn last year called for a rate of \$130 an hour to be adjusted annually by increases in inflation. The school was also not to be charged at a rate more than any other user (see story November 11, 2014, p. 1). The school has pledged \$1 million to the WRC's \$6-million fundraising campaign.

## A path is 'making its way'



Cyclists and pedestrians were able to use their new respective paths through Westmount Park last week though some pedestrians may have been unaware of the update. Workers began building cross walks over the bike path. Looking east, September 23, the security fencing had been removed from the area. Permanent fences remained to be installed around the dog run, at left, and the bike route. The pedestrian path is at the far left.

### Sculpture cont'd. from p. 1

versity of form and theme – nature, dreams or human relationships – within contemporary Zimbabwean sculpture.

Works by ZimArt's current artist-in-residence, Walter Mariga, are also included, and the artist will demonstrate his technique at the gallery this week.

Known internationally for his signature style of leaving areas of the stone uncut or "alive," Mariga is the son of Joram Mariga, known as the father of Shona sculpture.

Sponsored by the city of Westmount in collaboration with ZimArt's Rice Lake Gallery near Port Hope, Ontario, the exhibition will continue until October 7 at 4626 Sherbrooke St.

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# Cat rescued after 48 hours



Philip Dunwoody of the Public Works tree gang brings down a cat on Kensington September 18. Public Security officials said they had requested the rescue after receiving a call for “a cat in distress” from its owner at 8:45 am. The cat was given back to the resident who lives nearby.

Photo courtesy of Westmount Public Security

# Malkin, Bronfman play role in Y's peace medals



From left: Stéphane Vaillancourt, president and CEO of the YMCAs of Quebec; Alice Herscovitch, executive director of the Montreal Memorial Holocaust Centre; Westmounters Helen Malkin, chair of the board of directors of the centre, and Brian Bronfman, co-chair of the YMCA Peace Medals organizing committee.

Photo courtesy of the YMCA

Several Westmounters were connected in the recent YMCA Peace Medals ceremony, which was held September 21, marking the UN's International Day of Peace.

Helen Malkin is chair of the board of directors of The Montreal Memorial Holocaust Centre, which was an honorary laureate under the title “Remembering the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp 70 years ago.”

Brian Bronfman, co-chair of the YMCA Peace Medals organizing committee and president of the Peace Grantmakers Network, which gives medalists \$1,000 to donate to the organization of their choice, helped host the event, which took place at the Marché Bonsecours.

Just east of Westmount's border, Stephen Hecht from the Million Peacemakers lives where the organization is based in the Gleneagles. It received the International Peace Initiative for “Sorting out conflicts.” The organization “helps families, communities and organizations resolve conflicts. Its workshops have reached almost 100,000 individuals in more than 130 countries,” stated the Y's press release. Westmounter Marisa Samek is a member of its advisory board. She takes care of social media.

The evening's proceeds raised \$205,000 to help the YMCA youth development programs, according to Vanessa Ferreira-Vallente, coordinator, corporate partnerships and camp alumni relations, YMCA.

## Ce samedi, venez chercher du compost GRATUIT!

Le compost fabriqué à partir des feuilles mortes ramassées l'automne dernier sera mis à la disposition des résidents de Westmount à compter de 9 h le samedi 3 octobre aux Ateliers municipaux, rue Béthune, jusqu'à épuisement des stocks.

Apportez un contenant (soit un sac de plastique ou une poubelle) et une pelle. Comme la quantité est limitée, nous vous prions d'en laisser pour vos voisins. Interdit aux camions et aux remorques !

## Le compostage domestique

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Compost made from leaves collected last autumn will be available to Westmount residents as of 9 a.m. Saturday, October 3 at the Public Works yard, Bethune Street, while supplies last.

Bring a container (either a plastic bag or bin) and a shovel. Supply is limited, so please leave some for your neighbours. Trucks and trailers are prohibited!

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Westmount makes composting even easier by offering backyard composters for the low price of \$30. Contact the Public Works Department to learn more.

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Cost: \$30

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# Blink and you'll miss it



A blue jay picks up a peanut in a local garden September 22 and is caught on camera blinking with its inner eyelid. Birds may have this protective lid to avoid eye damage. It's thought that the woodpeckers' inner eye lid helps anchor the eye during pecking. "I think that all birds have them, but some have special adaptations like the window in the cormorant's eye," offered David Bird, director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre. Blue jays are common in urban and rural settings and like the cardinal, they display clever and feisty behaviour.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

## Letters cont'd. from p. 6

genuinely shocked when I mentioned to him that there were people (need I say what kind of car?) double parked in front of the TD Canada Trust, including a chauffeur waiting for his client in an adjacent doctor's office.

Do you have the authority to tell them to move? Yes, he replied. Can you give them a ticket? Yes, he replied. Well, why don't you?

However reluctantly, he did, and the guy moved. Five minutes later, I saw the security officer on the other side of the street still quite intent on meters but completely ignoring those parked outside Jean Coutu.

Special plates, indeed, for those with such obvious special needs – make that a soy milk latte – they can so blithely ignore the needs of others.

KEVIN TIERNEY, REDFERN AVE.


## Turcot project closes Selby Park for 4 years

Selby Park has been closed for four years due to work from the Turcot project. The park is located between Greene and Atwater just south of the Ville Marie expressway.

In a notice to residents of the area dated September 25, Transport Quebec said the closure was necessary to create a temporary rerouting of the highway between Rose de Lima (Hallowell) and Atwater to permit construction of the new expressway.



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## Wanderers runners-up



The Westmount Wanderers' boys U15 inter-city soccer team came second at the championship tournament of the Lac St. Louis league held on September 19 in Dollard des Ormeaux. After the regular season, they were in fourth place. They lost the final game 4-5 in the last few seconds to the Lakeshore. They beat first-place Trois Lacs in the semi.

Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg

## Batshaw Children Needing Homes Mature beyond her years

A long-term foster home is being sought for 12-year-old Mia, who loves fashion and is in the habit of trying different hairstyles to complement her outfits.

She is academically strong and works independently in completing her homework and class projects with excellent results. Like most children in the care system, Mia would rather be at home, where she can be cared for by her mother. However, she is aware that her mother is unable to provide her with the care, structure and attention that she needs.

Mia is presently in a group home, where she has made significant gains and is ready to be integrated into a family. In spite of the gains she has made, parenting Mia will be challenging as there are residues of life in a chaotic environment lacking in structure and consistency that has resulted in her being in some ways mature beyond her 12 years.

She is spirited, and there are times when she will be disrespectful, believing that she is more knowledgeable and may not be accepting of constructive criticism.

Being part of a new family will be a struggle for Mia as she will be inclined to

demonstrate how well she can take care of herself. She will need a family that can gently reclaim the reigns of parenting, giving her the confidence and the stability she is seeking in a family.

The ideal home would be a two-parent black family, with Mia being the youngest child in the family. It should be open to structured visits from her mother.

For more information on Mia, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, local 1139.

## Car towed in accident at busy intersection

A tow truck was required to remove one of two cars involved in an accident September 18 at Sherbrooke and Victoria, Public Security officials said.

No injuries were reported. The collision occurred when one tried to change lanes and "hooked" a car going in the same direction. Patrollers came upon the accident at 4:40 pm and proceeded to direct traffic and help drivers fill out a joint accident report.



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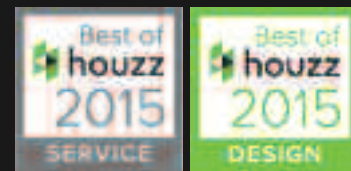
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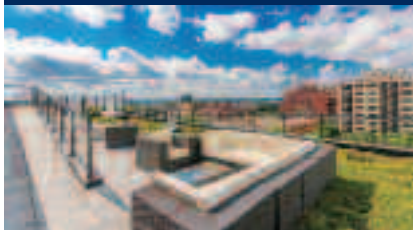


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# Hydro billing: a step into the future

*cont'd. from p. 3*

water utilities in North America, Hurtubise said.

It has the capability to be used for the city's proposed new automated parking meters and even for the billing of water meters if and when these come into being, he said.

It also provides the foundation for Hydro Westmount's next step: implementation of a portal through which customers will be able to access their own information.

"It's a cutting edge system that allows us to have better understanding and control of our billing," Hurtubise explained. "It is integrated with other billing and accounting practices in the city and will enable us to provide better information to customers when they ask for it."

It is also integrated with new hand-held devices to be used by meter readers on the road.

"It's a big step for us because we had a Windows-based system that had evolved over time," Hurtubise added.

### Replaces 1980 system

The system dated back to 1980, Coun-

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cillor Victor Drury said when the council awarded the tender on September 2, 2014. The decision to replace the system in use was based on a recommendation from the auditors' report in 2012 stating that "we as a city are running at a risk trying to maintain it," he said.

The contract for a total of \$876,423 was given to Harris Computer Systems for the supply and implementation of the new system.

The project was implemented by a dedicated project manager, a data conversion expert, a configuration person who adapted the software to Hydro's needs and the trainers, all supplied by the company.

The system will be used mainly by Hydro Westmount's customer service representatives and city cashiers. "All the historical information of customers has been uploaded from the old billing system to the new one," Hurtubise said. "The conversion was quite an exercise."

The new bills are expected to be generated starting October 5.

## Seven violate midnight park curfew

Seven men and women were issued \$76 curfew tickets September 18 at 1 am at the Summit lookout, Public Security officials said. They ranged in age from 20 to 30 and came from Longueuil, Greenfield Park, St. Thérèse and St. Bruno.

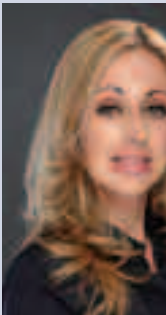


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## Smiles on first day of autumn



Two friends living at Manoir Westmount enjoy the evening of the first day of autumn, September 23, in Westmount Park. Eighty-eight-year-old Shirley Newell and Herman Floeck, 91, were sitting by the lagoon, enjoying the weather and watching the ducks frolicking in the water. Newell was born in the Toronto but lived in the US after her husband was transferred to a company head office. She worked in the American school system, taught English in China for four years and recently lived in Sorel. Floeck, whose father was a German businessman, was born in Hangzhou (now part of Wuhan city), China. He went to school in Shanghai. When the Japanese invaded Shanghai in 1941 during World War II, because of the Axis alliance of Germany and Japan, Floeck was recruited into the Japanese navy as a wireless operator and moved to Tokyo for training.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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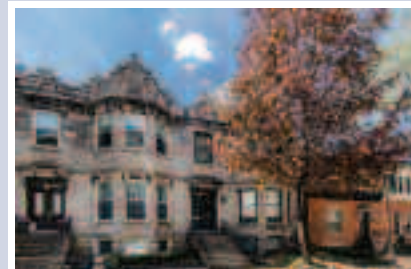


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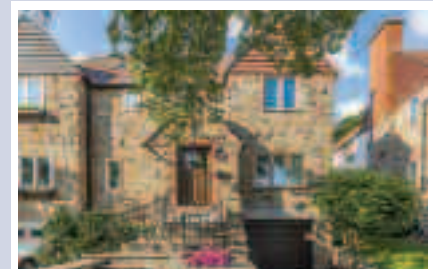
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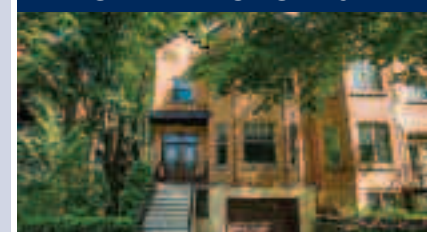


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# Croquet tournament played on lawn bowling greens



Andrew de Courcy-Ireland lines up a croquet shot September 11.

Photo courtesy of Darren Ell

The 2015 Quebec Open Croquet Championships was held between September 11 and 13 on the lawn bowling greens of Westmount and the Town of Mount Royal.

According to a recounting of the tournament by Westmounter Andrew de Courcy-Ireland, founder of the Westmount Croquet Club, who finished in third place in the A Flight, more than 20 players from as far west as Lake Huron and as far south as Florida competed.

The winner of the tournament was Stuart Lawrence of New York City (ranked 14 in the US). In the final match against Brian Cumming of Elora, Ontario (ranked second in Canada), Lawrence narrowly missed scoring a perfect 26tp [triple peel]-0 victory. The final score was 26-9.

The tournament is held annually the weekend after Labour Day.

Social play takes place Tuesday evenings throughout the summer at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club.

How long does the season run? "Weather will be the determining factor. I hope we'll go to November 3," said de Courcy-Ireland, who can be reached for more information at 514.927.3023.

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## Gray's book kicks off Study's centennial



Left, Melissa Lu in grade 11 at *The Study* was among several students who read sections of *No Ordinary School* September 17. Right, an early record of school fees shows annual fees for girls 7 to 9 years was \$130 plus a \$5 entrance fee. A Celtic harp player, seen in the background, provided background music before and after the presentations.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

As part of The Study's 100th anniversary celebrations, it commissioned Westmounter Colleen Gray to write a detailed history of the private girls' school.

Gray, who teaches in the history department at Concordia University, has spent 30 years teaching history with a focus on Montreal, Quebec, and women. For two years she researched and prepared the book *No Ordinary School*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

"As I started to research material for the

book, it became evident that The Study has remained true to its roots. The founder, Oxford-educated Margaret Gascoigne's philosophies included charity, high academic standards and friendship," Gray told the *Independent* September 17 at an evening speakers' event at the school. "These qualities have basically remained throughout the life of the school."

Among those attending the presentation were Marc Garneau, member of parliament for Westmount-Ville Marie and Westmount mayor Peter Trent.

## Water pumping at plaza generates noise complaint

Noisy night work was allowed to continue at Alexis Nihon Plaza September 16 when it turned out to be of an emergency nature, Public Security officials said. A large truck was found pumping out water from "a large flood" in the restaurant area. A noise complaint had been received at 10:08 pm.



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# Dismantled cannon part of Westmount heritage

cont'd. from p. 1

status from Westmount Municipal Association co-president Paul Marriott.

“It’s worth the risk,” former councillor George Bowser told the *Independent* last week. “I would put them at the cenotaph, however, which does not seem to be vandalized.” He suggested they be well secured against theft and monitored by camera.

Bowser, who had spearheaded the start of the restoration project before leaving

office at the end of 2009, said he remained firm in his belief that as part of Westmount’s heritage, the guns should go back outside where they can be viewed and enjoyed by Westmounters.

“They certainly don’t belong in a warehouse in pieces,” Public Works commissioner Patrick Martin said. “I am determined to get the gun carriages restored so that the cannon can be brought back to their original appearance, and their historical value be fully realized.”

But the question remains, he said, “of where to exhibit them so that people can see them.”

According to Trent, the Royal Montreal Regiment, an infantry unit, was not interested in having them. He suggested the cannon might be of interest to another military group such as the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment on Côte des Neiges Rd. across from Westmount.

“I’m open to a solution if anyone can come up with an idea.”

The artillery regiment has close historical ties to the city, Martin explains. It enlisted Westmounters in both world wars and named batteries (artillery units) after



Removed from rotted gun carriages, the pair of 1810 bronze cannon are shown September 23 with Public Works superintendent Todd Séguin. Stored nearby are the four new “authentic” wheels that are awaiting the building of new gun carriages (inset).

All photos except where noted: Laureen Sweeney

the city. “We can expect the regiment to take a more active role in the city in the future.”

In fact, the cannon are believed to have

once belonged to the 2nd Field Artillery. Information on the guns obtained from the city in 1981 stated that ..... “a royal salute had been continued on p. 17



Cast during the reign of George III (1760-1820)



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## Historic value more than price of bronze

"The historic value of the cannons far exceeds the value of their bronze," said Councillor Patrick Martin, who has an interest in military history.

He said he has been trying to research their role between 1810 when they were manufactured in England and their recorded firing in 1897.

While described as "brass," these were metallurgically made of bronze just as lead pencils have always been made of graphite, Trent explains.

According to information obtained by the *Independent* in a letter to the city in 1973 by the Royal Artillery Institution in Woolwich, England, the cannon "are a pair of 12-pounder medium brass smooth-bore muzzle loaders that were continually in service with the Crown from 1750 to 1860. The charge was 4 lbs. and the range 1,400 yds. at 4° elevation."

The city had written to the Royal Artillery asking for information on the two cannon and providing rubbings from their barrels. It also sought details on the gun carriages that would have been used.

Markings on the cannon, the reply states, indicate they were cast during the reign of George III in 1810 by J. and H. King, government-appointed founders. Included was information on the gun carriages with a mention from the writer that "I note you desire to build an authentic carriage for these two guns."

It was later reported in one news item from 1981 that this had been undertaken "several years ago" at "considerable expense."

When it came time for another more recent restoration effort requiring a solid piece of oak, Martin recalled that Public Works had saved two fallen oak trees from Summit Woods for the purpose. In the process of drying out naturally, however, the trees had rotted.

The most recent restoration of the cannon, spearheaded by former city councillor George Bowser, had been limited to building four "authentic" wheels for the gun carriages at a cost of more than US\$16,000 (see story June 7, 2011, p. 11). Over the years, the carriages have been outfitted with a variety of wheels.

Further restoration – mainly building new authentic gun carriages – however, remained only as a line item in the Capital Works budget proposed for 2014 in an amount of \$60,000. It has since been dropped from the budget.

It was in a letter to the editor on September 21, 2010, that Bowser, after his departure from council, wrote: "The main carriages must still be repaired and council must still find a way to return the completed guns and carriages to their accustomed place in such a way that they cannot be damaged or – perish the thought – stolen." – LS

### *Cannon cont'd. from p. 16*

fired from them on June 21, 1897 by the Second Canadian Regiment of Artillery on the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria (the Diamond Jubilee of her reign)."

The occasion is recorded in a photo of the firing at a ceremony that day on the grounds of the now defunct St. George's Snowshoe Club on The Boulevard near Aberdeen (see photo top left). This is where St. George's School is now located.

It was also reported by the city that the Sons of England, Westmount Lodge, subsequently donated the cannon to the city for the new Westmount Park, where they were installed in 1899. This "benevolent" society was believed, according to one report, to have purchased the "obsolescent" cannon from the military for that purpose.

Over the years, the cannon became a favourite of children playing in Westmount Park. One of the pair was "stolen" from the park overnight in 1981 as a carnival prank by law students at the University of Montreal. It had taken them four hours to move it onto a trailer, unseen



George Bowser, at the time a city councillor, with the pair of cannon in March 2009 at Public Works, where they were awaiting the building of four new wheels.

overnight. The one cannon was displayed in their faculty building until the city took it back some seven days later.



The cannon are fired for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee June 21, 1897 by the 2nd Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery at the grounds of the former St. George's Snowshoe Club.

Photo from *A View of Their Own* by Aline Gubbay



The cannon in Westmount Park, 1967.



Smaller generic wagon wheels were used in the last renewal of the gun carriages when the cannon were returned to the park on August 8, 1994. They replaced earlier larger ones.



Police Report

# Thief steals SUV

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 Montreal business owner on an early morning service call to a client at Westmount Square had his compact SUV stolen from its parking spot on the street after he accidentally dropped his ignition

keys. They were found and used by an opportunistic thief, who made off with his vehicle and its contents.

According to police at Westmount's Station 12, the incident took place at around 8 am on September 21. The suspect, who is seen in a Westmount Square security system video that was reviewed afterwards, had found the victim's hoodie lying on the floor in the Westmount Square mall.

The video revealed that the hoodie had accidentally fallen off a trolley that the SUV's owner was wheeling in for his work. The thief is seen in the video searching inside the garment, locating a key ring and disposing of the hoodie in a garbage bin.

He then proceeds outside, where he is observed trying to locate the vehicle with the assistance of the electronic remote fob to which the key was attached. The thief finally succeeded in locating the vehicle, a Mazda Tribute on Wood Ave.

A witness, who was also an acquaintance of the victim, spotted the thief as he was fleeing at the wheel of the stolen SUV headed east along St. Catherine St. Although there was no evidence on the security video, the suspect is also thought to have stolen the victim's cell phone: it was inside the hoodie and was missing afterwards.

The police found themselves dealing with a second but directly related incident – a hit and run collision – after the suspect struck another vehicle on Wood Ave. while fleeing in the stolen Mazda. The vehicle was finally found by police on the morning of September 25. It was parked downtown on St. Urbain St. Its contents, consisting mostly of some sports equipment, were missing.

The suspect is described as a white male around age 35, about 5'10" tall, weighing 150 lbs. with a short "pinch" beard on his chin and wearing sunglasses. He was wearing a beige hat and a white jacket, beige pants, black shoes and he had a backpack. "There is an active investigation under way," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

### Car broken into in Olivier parking lot

Station 12 also reported a vehicle break-in incident a few days earlier. A car parked in the interior lot of an apartment building on Olivier Ave. was broken into between 8 pm on September 18 and 1 pm on September 19. (The exact date and time are uncertain as the victim was away at the time.) A rear passenger window was shattered to gain access. "Personal items" were stolen, according to the police report.

## Westmount (still) unexplained Dead emergency phone gets new sign



Photographed September 14, the Northern Telecom telephone box affixed to a pole has a new sign with shiny new screws. It reads "Assistance" and replaces the graffiti-tagged and faded sign that had previously hung there for years. When the Independent first explored this Westmount relic several weeks ago, the telephone inside was not working. Despite an apparent clean-up of cobwebs in the box, the telephone itself continues to be non-functioning. Inset: Photographed August 29 and now gone, a metal sign appears 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.

Photos: Ralph Thompson

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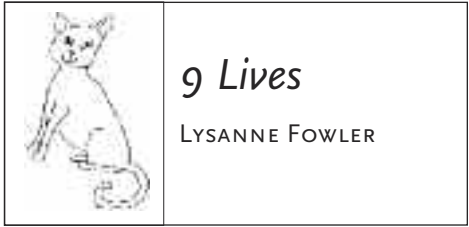
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# Miss Chilli awaits adopters in local vet clinic



With a beautiful delicate face and incredible poise, Miss Chilli is a gorgeous Persian and, shockingly, she doesn't have a family or a home anymore.

Miss Chilli has been taken in by the kind veterinary team at the Montreal Veterinary Hospital in our neighbourhood at 324 Victoria Ave.

This beauty is almost two years old, extremely healthy, inoculated, spayed and was declawed on her front paws by her previous owners. She was in a one-cat only home and is shy with other cats, so this would still be the best home environment for her.

Miss Chilli is getting attention and cuddles at the clinic but it's not like a proper home and family love. For more information on her, please call the clinic at 514.489.8217 to make an appointment to visit with her. It is open from 8 am to 8 pm from Monday to Friday, and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday.

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Among new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

### Magazines

“Uber v. taxi” by Jonathan Kay in *The Walrus*, September 2015, p. 34-41. To go behind the scenes of the battle between Uber and taxi drivers, the *Walrus*’ editor Jonathan Kay went to taxi school and hit the streets as an Uber driver.

“Remembering Ornette Coleman” in *Downbeat*, September 2015, p. 24-29. In celebration of a jazz icon, the magazine has compiled critical responses to his early work and statements from Coleman’s fellow musicians as they appeared in *Downbeat* over the decades.

“Thalys: celui qui voulait semer la terreur” dans *Paris Match*, August 27-September 2, p. 29-53. Retrouvez le grand dossier de 24 pages sur l’attentat avorté du Thalys et de nombreuses photos exclusives.

### E-books – New titles from Canadian authors

*His Whole Life* by Elizabeth Hay – Set in mid-1990s Quebec during the height of the separatist movement, this powerful coming-of-age story charts the deepening bond between 10-year old Jim and his mother even as the family comes apart.

*The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill – Aspiring runner Keita Ali lives in Zantoroland, the home of world-class marathoners, but races away when his father is murdered for his political views. In a wealthy nation called Freedom State, he must hide his status as an illegal alien.

### Livres numériques

*En attendant demain* by Natacha Ap-panah – Adam and Anita are artists, their shared life is described through 17 snapshots. Their existence will be turned upside down after the hiring of a nanny, a mysterious African young woman who entered France illegally.

*L'étrangère* by Valérie Toranian – Through conversations between an elderly woman who escaped the massacres of Armenians in 1915 and her granddaughter, this novel tells the story of a dramatic period in history.

### Adult English – Exploring the mind

*In the Mind Fields: Exploring the New Science of Neuropsychanalysis* by Casey Schwartz – An accessible journalistic exploration of the culture of modern psychiatry analyzes early crossover efforts between the fields of neuroscience and

psychoanalysis to outline new understandings in how humans think, feel, and behave.

*Mindware: Tools for Smart Thinking* by Richard Nisbett – Nisbett presents the idea that scientific and philosophical concepts can change the way we solve problems by helping us think more effectively about our behaviour and world – and helps to put it into practice.

### Adult French – Canadian politics

*Le courage de ses convictions* by Thomas Mulcair – The inside story of Mulcair’s rise from modest beginnings to the threshold of power. Discover the man behind the headlines, who he is, how he thinks and the struggles he faced – from fighting sexual misconduct, to protecting the environment, to his work alongside Jack Layton leading the NDP to a historic breakthrough in Quebec.

*Stephen Harper: un portrait* by John Ibbitson – *Globe and Mail* journalist Ibbitson closely examines the life of the secretive Conservative leader, even going back through his ancestry to try to better understand his personality.

### Documentaries on DVD

*Cancer: the emperor of all maladies* by Barak Goodman – This film, produced by Ken Burns, presents a history of cancer, from ancient times to the present day. It includes stories of contemporary patients and examines the latest scientific research, which might indicate that we are on the brink of a lasting cure.

*The Salt of the Earth* by Wim Wenders and Juliano Ribeiro Salgado – A biographical film following the life and career of the photographer Sebastião Salgado, both the major historical events he has photographed and his current project to photograph Earth’s natural spaces. An Oscar nominee for best documentary.

### Back to school – Picture books for children

*How to Read a Story* by Kate Messner – This charming picture book is a fun and creative way to share the reading process with a young child.

*Margot et la nouvelle élève* by Dave Whamond – Margot has always liked being the kid who is a little bit different in her class, but when a new girl arrives who is just as unique, Margot finds herself slightly upstaged.

### Reference

*Consumer Reports New Cars Preview 2016.*



# A 'Darling' moon-lit eve full of art, celebration



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Darling Foundry held a celebration on August 27, a beautiful moon-lit eve by the time guests departed. Renowned as one of Montreal's most cutting edge galleries, the massive space was once, yes, a foundry. Rumour has it that when a feng shui master visited he "felt great heat."

The cocktail reception was hot in a different way. Fantastic DJs played in the outdoor pedestrian area next to wispy, waving cosmos, planted annually as an "installa-

tion." (I simply call mine a garden!)

A food truck added local colour. But the most delicious delights were served indoors by Le Serpent, owned by restaurateur extraordinaire **Hubert Marsolais** of Le Filet and La Chasse et Pêche. Guests enjoyed salmon tartare and mushroom canapés, and sipped cool gazpacho.

Darling founder/director **Caroline Andrieux**, resplendent in a white creation by designer Denis Gagnon, welcomed arrivals, including Westmounters **Dorota Kozinska**, English editor of *Vie des Arts*; Fasken Martineau lawyer **Maurice Forget**, a Foundry governor, as are **Nathalie Bondil**, chief curator and director, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA); and **Phyllis Lambert**, founder and director of CCA, both noted in the crowd.



From left: Paul Lavallée, Nathalie Bondil and Michel de la Chenelière.

Chenelière Foundation; **Paul Lavallée**, director administration, MMFA; **François Rochon**, president, Giverny Capital; curators **Yves Théoret** and **Marie-Ève Beaupré**; **Sylvie Fortin**, director La Biennale de Montréal; **Michèle Thériault**, director Leonard & Bina Ellen Gallery; **Jeanie Riddle**, director Parisian Laundry; PR **François Taschereau**, **Pierre Desmarais**, Pierre Desmarais Belvédère Foundation and **G. Pierre Lapointe**, president executive committee Jarislowsky Fraser Ltd.

Darling Foundry board members noted included Fasken Martineau lawyer **Richard Clare** (president) and treasurer **Félix-Antoine Joli-Coeur**, cofounder and partner of Authentique Partners.

More photos, p. 22.



Caroline Andrieux, left, and Dorota Kozinska.



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## Looking for 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 Bergeron**, on the city of Montreal executive committee, congratulated the Foundry on its recent fundraising campaign, which reached 102 percent of its goal.

The evening welcomed the installation of *Mirador*, a new artwork by Le collectif Acapulco. Noted admiring the art were **Michel de la Chenelière**, president of de la





Maurice Forget



Richard Clare, left, and Stefan Fewes.

## Breathing but not responding

A man was taken to the Montreal General September 21 when found lying on the sidewalk at 60 Clandeboye at 12:34 am, Public Security officials said. Patrollers called Urgences Santé when the man was discovered to be breathing but not responding. He was identified as “heavily intoxicated.”

## Complaint of screaming at 2:17 am

A complaint of someone screaming at 2:17 am September 21 at Sherbrooke and Claremont was traced to a man seen earlier at the comfort station in Westmount Park, according to Public Security officials. He headed west after being ordered to leave the area.

## Leaf blowers allowed ‘back’ October 1

A contractor was ticketed \$270 September 17 for using a leaf blower out-of-season at a house on Strathcona, Public Security officials said. The work had generated a noise complaint at 11:57 am. The fall leaf-blowing period takes place from October 1 to November 15.

## Dogs run in and out at will, barking

A resident of Holton Ave. was advised September 18 not to leave the back door open in her absence so her dogs could run in and out, Public Security officials said. Not only had neighbours complained at 8:05 pm about “non-stop” barking but the open door could be an invitation to thieves, despite the presence of dogs.

## Librarian needs help leaving at night

Public safety officers reported confiscating alcohol from a group of five homeless people September 17 outside the Atwater Library. Public Security officials said the group was dispersed so an evening librarian locking up could feel safe leaving. She had asked for assistance.





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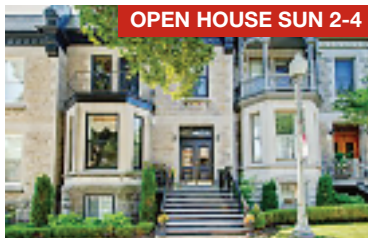
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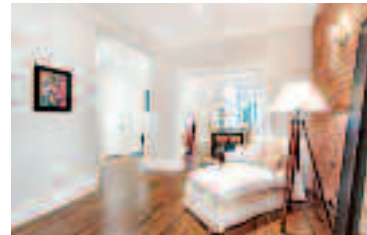
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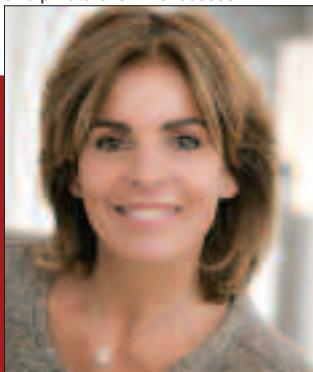
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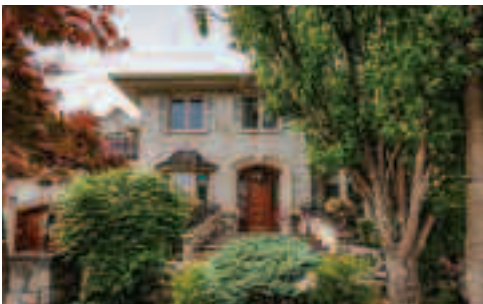
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