

Public presentation slated for February 11

Plans for condo project include demo of Hillside armoury

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to demolish Westmount's vacant historic Hillside armoury and build some 37 condo units are to be presented February 11 at a public meeting of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). It starts at 8:30 am.

The project calls for eight stepped-back storeys on a smaller footprint than the 1910 armoury with larger landscaped setbacks. There would be two levels of underground parking for bicycles and some 48 to 50 spaces, some of which would be for community use.

"We were hoping to re-use the existing building," and present a project that conforms to zoning, developer Luciano Girlando told the *Independent* last week. (See also story April 2, 2019, p. 9.)

"That was until we realized from engineering reports the extent of its deterioration and damage. So we cannot feel comfortable putting new units in a building that is rotten."

Because the new project's proposed height is among variations from the current zoning, the plan requires consideration under the city's by-law for Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposals for an Immoveable (SCAOPI).

Its basic construction cost is estimated at \$23.8 million.

Located at Hillside Lane and Hillside Ave. across from the Westmount Athletic Grounds, the brick building has been unoccupied since 2014. This is when the city's famed 3 Field Regiment of Engineers (now the 34 Combat Engineers) and the 712 Communica- *continued on p. 18*

Atwater's library turns 100, exactly



The Atwater Library on January 30, the building's 100th birthday to the day. See p.4 for a story on the lecture that kicked off a year of commemorative events. PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

New, but confusing

Pay city taxes by credit card – but only from website

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When you opened your municipal tax bill last week, did you notice the new option?

This year for the first time, taxpayers are able to pay by credit card along with a surcharge of 1.98 percent – but only by using the payment form on the city's website through a link to Acceo, an external

platform.

This is similar to PayPal, which many people are familiar with for making internet payments, city director general Benoit Hurtubise explained last week.

He said there was no city he knew of that accepted credit cards directly because of the fees involved. "It would have required an increase in the city's budget to cover *continued on p. 4*



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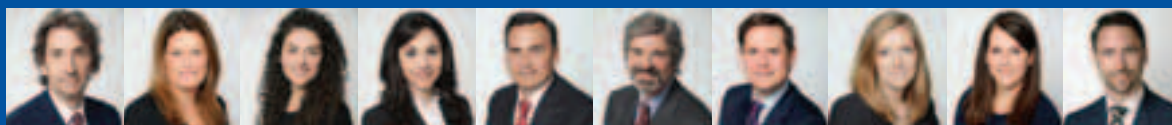


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Westmount hockey player suffers heart attack

Puni revived on ice by quick action, defibrillator

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount hockey player who suffered what was described as a “massive” heart attack January 24 near the end of an Old Timers in-house game was revived by the quick actions of four other players and use of the rink’s defibrillator.

“They kept me alive,” said Ajoy Puni February 2 on his arrival home from hospital and surgery. “If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t be here now.”

“Those four definitely saved his life,” said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe, who said he will be recommending that the city recognize their efforts.

He identified them as Bruce Stacey, the Sports and Recreation facilities manager; Bobby Forbes, Public Security sergeant; Ed Harvey, an orthopedic surgeon at the MUHC; and radiologist Mike Baranyai.

Players rushed to help

Lapointe, who plays with them in the league but was not there for that game, said there were two minutes left in the game when Puni “went down. The very first person who went to him was Mike (Baranyai).” He was joined within 15 sec-



Ajoy Puni, left, visited in the hospital by Mike Deegan, his longtime friend and hockey buddy, the former city director general and head of Sports and Recreation. PHOTO COURTESY OF M. DEEGAN.

onds by Stacey who called over Harvey (a physician) who was on the bench at the time and Forbes.

“We’re 22 guys who play together and every week we change the teams,” said Lapointe, who has played hockey with Puni since joining the city in 1992.

Long-time player and volunteer

Puni, 50, along with two younger brothers, has played Westmount hockey for many years and has worked as a volunteer with the department and the city. He is the son of Ena Puni, who retired some 20 years ago as secretary of Sports and Recreation after 25 years, she told the *Independent*.

“We were so lucky everyone there reacted so quickly,” she said. “I always said I worked for the best department.” During her career, before the installation of defibrillators, she said, “we were taught CPR, which I continued on p. 19

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Atwater Library marks building's 100th with Dunton lecture

By Martin C. Barry

It was appropriate – and in keeping with the educational values of the Atwater Library's 19th century founders – that their 21st century successors chose to mark the 100th anniversary of the library's Atwater Ave. building with a lecture describing in detail its elaborate architecture.

As Atwater Library executive-director Lynn Verge pointed out prior to a noon-hour presentation by Montreal architectural historian Nancy Dunton, January 30 was the exact date in 1920 when the Mechanics' Institute's building on Atwater Ave. first opened.



A historic plaque set up outside the Atwater Library in 2005 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Among the guests were Westmount city councillors Kathleen Kez and Jeff Shamie, as well as members of the family of William Rutherford, who was president of the Montreal Mechanics' Institute in 1920.

(Coincidentally, Rutherford was mayor of Westmount from 1911 to 1912. The new building's design was created by the architectural firm of Hutchison, Wood and Miller, whose founder, Alexander C. Hutchison, had been mayor of Westmount from 1884 to 1886.)

Known until 1962 as the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, the library's name was modified that year to the Atwater Library of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal to reflect its interest in serving a wider public.

The Mechanics' Institute was originally located at 360 St. Jacques St. West in Old Montreal, where the massive Royal Bank building now stands. The board of directors made the strategic decision to sell the first building and acquire a property on Atwater Ave.

"It is clear that they intended the building to be not just a functional building, but also as an expression of the ideals of the Mechanics' Institute," said Dunton, noting that the new building, reflecting Beaux Arts architectural style, incorporated elements that allowed quite a bit of daylight to enter.

"There's an awesome simplicity about it and a real elegance," she continued. "And I would argue that, in fact, one of the determining characteristics of the building is light."

As she pointed out, the architect's emphasis on light included the large semi-cir-



Montreal architectural historian Nancy Dunton.

cular windows that admit large quantities of light into the reading rooms on the main floor. As well, a skylight on top of the building lavishes daylight onto the second-storey mezzanine, then down to the lobby where the marbled central librarians' desk is located.

A historic plaque set up outside the Atwater Library in 2005 recognizes the library not only as the home of the first Mechanics' Institute in Canada, but also as the last Mechanics' Institute building in Canada serving its original purpose.

See p. 1 for another photo.

Taxes, cont'd. from p. 1

them." Magog and Blainville are two municipalities that also use the Aceo platform for tax payment.

Hurtubise said there had been a demand for credit card use for the tax bills, "so we decided to try it this year."

Information on the city's website under "Resident zone/taxation and budgets" reads that "In addition to using a bank transfer, you can now make your municipal tax payment by credit card (exclusively through the city of Westmount's payment page). There is a surcharge to use this service. Use the button below."

At least one reader of the *Independent*, however, found the credit card information sent out with tax bills to be confusing and stated he could not sign up on the website. "Can you or can't you? That is the million-dollar question," asked Joe Molony in emails sent out to many people including various city officials.

"Yes, you can pay the taxes by credit card on the city's website at a cost of 1.98 percent," replied Councillor Kathleen Kez, council's finance commissioner. "In order to use this service, you need your registration number as well as the invoice number. This information can be found on the tax bill.

"There was a flyer sent out with the tax bills with outdated information at the very

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RECOGNIZING RENAN'S LIFESAVING HEIMLICH

I was having lunch at Café Renan, 4920 de Maisonneuve (at Prince Albert), yesterday. All of a sudden, a man started choking and couldn't breathe. Quickly, Mr. Renan went over to the man and started doing the Heimlich maneuver on him. The man then released the piece of food that was blocking him and seemed fine.

I think Mr. Renan was very brave and should be recognized in some way.

PAULA HERSHOFF,
DE MAISONNEUVE

REMEMBERING GREG AREVIAN

The sadness I feel about the recent passing of Greg Arevian is compounded by the closing of the Arevian family's long-time business, Arevco Lighting on St. Catherine St. at Greene. Not only has Westmount lost a remarkable commercial citizen, it has lost a landmark. I feel fortunate to have experienced the outstanding quality, service, friendliness and professionalism demonstrated by Arevco and its owners over the years.

CLAIRE PANET-RAYMOND,
BLENHEIM PLACE

bottom which states that credit cards cannot be used, however this is not the case."

Kez later told the *Independent* that the flyer was one sent out previous years to which the new credit card option had been added for this year but that a note at the bottom said credit cards could not be used, meaning when paying at city hall. "I too was confused when I opened my tax bill and saw it." She said some people had also been confused about the 1.98 percent.

In addition to cash and cheques, tax bills can also be paid electronically through bank transfers and by Interac (if the amount is under the person's limit).

Taxpayers are reminded that some payments can take up to five days to reach the city resulting in delays that can accrue interest and penalties.

For the fiscal year 2020, an interest rate of 9 percent was adopted by city council January 13 for all overdue taxes. A penalty of 0.5 percent of the outstanding principal of municipal taxes is also charged for the entire month up to 5 percent per year.

The tax bills are payable in two instalments due February 24 and May 25 as explained in a mayor's letter accompanying the tax bills, which outlines some details of the 2020 budget and the overall tax increase of 2.5 percent for the average single-family dwelling (see also story January 14, p. 1).

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First step in 'Imagine Westmount 2040'

Many turn out to participate, learn about master plan

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public launch January 29 of the city's "Imagine Westmount 2040" project to develop a new urban planning master plan attracted many residents to the drop-in evening event at Victoria Hall.

Many spent considerable time viewing information boards, speaking informally with council members and staff, and filling out questionnaires. A summary of their comments and feedback is expected to be made public February 12.

It was the first step of five in creating the new plan, described as shaping the future development of Westmount based on a two-year public consultation process regarding such areas as zoning, housing, transportation, heritage preservation, commercial activity and environmental protection.

The next steps were described as "land diagnosis" (winter 2020), identifying common community values and vision (spring-summer), holding "thematic" public consultations on various topics (fall 2020) and consulting residents on a preliminary master plan along with holding hearings on sub- *continued on p. 10*



Tom Flies, the city's Urban Planning director, explains plans to a member of the public.



Councillor Conrad Peart listening to a member of the public.

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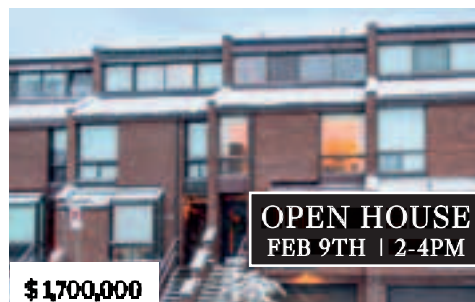
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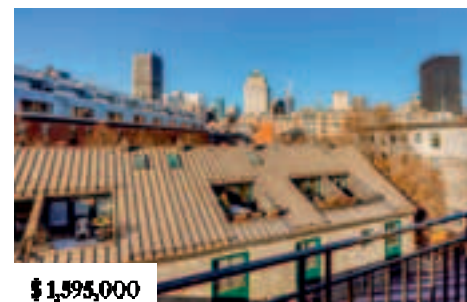
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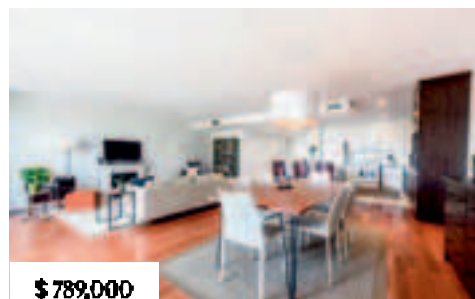
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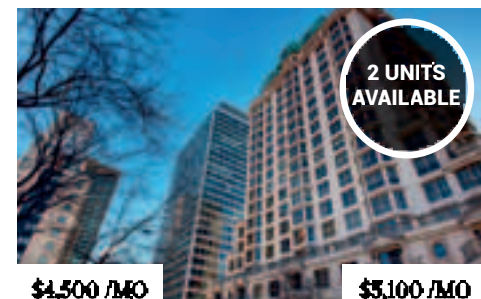
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Westmount 2040, cont'd. from p. 8

missions (spring-summer 2021).

It will be up to the new council elected in November 2021 to finalize the plan but the vision of the citizens will be there for them, according to Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture. By-law revisions would be based on the new plan.

Biggest challenge

"This is the beginning of a process" he explained in a brief presentation. "It's setting up the foundation" for what he described as what will be the biggest challenge in this council's mandate.

"It's very exciting," said Mayor Christina Smith, in welcoming words. Everywhere she goes, she said, she gets "constant feedback and often it's about urban planning."

Summarizing the information boards, Urban Planning director Tom Flies said the master plan process "responds to where are we now, where do we want to go and how do we get there."

"Its legitimacy comes from the citizens" through their participation, he added.

He pointed out that Westmount had changed since the 2001 master plan was developed, citing elements such as climate change. "So a (new) plan allows us to anticipate and be ready."

As citizens began arriving at 6 pm, they were handed questionnaires, which many filled in after viewing the information boards.

These dealt with what is a master plan, how does it fit into the Westmount context, why does the city need to review its existing plan and how does planning translate into results. Others provided insight into the review process and public participation.

The types of potential participatory workshops and public consultation activities are still to be determined "because it's too far in the future," according to Isaac Gauthier, project manager for Transfert Environnement et Société, working for the city on the public consultation process.

Questionnaires citizens were asked to complete asked how citizen participation can be sustained during the process, how a wide diversity of participants (age, gender, ethnic origin etc.) can be ensured and how the participation process can meet community expectation.

Attendees were also asked to rate the first participation meeting.

Sharing ideas

Some were quick to weigh in on more immediate needs by adding sticky notes to boards labelled "sharing thoughts on the review process."



Filling out questionnaires.

These included green roofs, green construction, limiting the size of buildings, safer bike paths, empty shops, improving street crossings for the elderly and more spaces for public gardens in lower Westmount.

"A review process is very difficult," commented former mayor Karin Marks, a former urban planning commissioner, who attended. "It's a balance between that people will feel is either too loosey-goosey or too detailed."

Longtime resident Brigitta Brittain, of Grosvenor, was among several who told the

Independent they hoped for more attention to be given to some of the challenges faced by an aging population. "People have different needs from those who are 55."

"I'm here to get an impression" of what's involved in the process, said Petronella Beran, also of Grosvenor Ave., as she scrutinized the information boards. These are now posted on the city's website.

The event, which included coffee and cookies, had been promoted as an informal way for citizens to interact and share their ideas with Urban Planning staff and consultants (see story January 21, p. 1).

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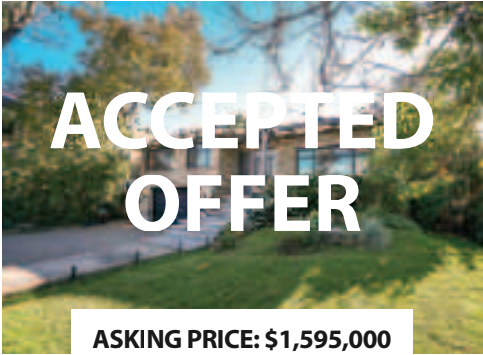


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





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
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
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in August 2019

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
13 Anwoth	Choi Yung Hung	\$1,457,500	\$1,038,300	40.4%
413 Argyle	estate June Marie Kidman Ainley	\$1,125,000	\$998,600	12.7%
66 Arlington	Jeffrey Sise Drummond & Kathryn Anne Lund	\$2,028,000	\$1,512,300	34.1%
3218 Cedar	Beverly Poisson & Nabil Tabot	\$4,000,000	\$3,346,200	19.5%
51 Clandeboye	Boxuan Gu	\$965,000	\$913,000	5.7%
401 Côte St. Antoine	François Magny & Petra Reichert	\$3,000,000	\$1,952,400	53.7%
365 Grosvenor	Gary Oberman	\$1,497,000	\$940,600	59.2%
536 Lansdowne	Jorgia Sogleris	\$650,000	\$629,400	3.3%
109 Lewis	Sandra Perreault	\$999,000	\$661,700	51.0%
420 Mount Stephen	Roger Bernard Angel	\$1,235,000	\$922,000	33.9%
642 Roslyn	Ghislain Lesaffre & Florence Rieu	\$3,400,000	\$2,037,000	66.9%
4850 Westmount Ave.	Hillel Greenbaum	\$1,908,000	\$1,152,700	65.5%
CONDOMINIUMS				
399 Clarke #5C (502)	Ana Toro	\$595,000	\$435,900	36.5%
547 Grosvenor	Daniel Laporte & Madeleyn Conway	\$700,000	\$661,700	5.8%
549 Grosvenor	Daniel Laporte & Madeleyn Conway	\$935,000	\$687,500	36.0%
11 Hillside #214	Richard Corriveau & Sylvie O'Bomsawin	\$589,000	\$410,700	43.4%
171 Metcalfe (#103)	Beverley Waxman Shindler	\$1,150,000	\$1,020,300	12.7%
267 Olivier #204	Gwen Sankey Norsworthy	\$435,000	\$434,300	0.2%
4175 St. Catherine #2203 (PH3)	Carole Pockrass	\$2,350,000	\$1,762,800 ¹	33.3%
EARLIER SALES – JUNE				
38 Anwoth	Abdel Samodi & Khadija Chafia Samodi	\$1,695,000	\$1,345,100	26.0%
334 Olivier	William Trihey & Tara Garbarino	\$2,850,000	\$1,236,700	130.5%
EARLIER SALES – JULY				
3775 Grey+land in Westmount	Alain Fradet & Brigitte Kieffer	\$1,340,000 ²	\$1,116,000	20.1%
371 Lansdowne	William Barrie Wilson & Elizabeth Jean Johnston	\$1,650,000	\$1,325,600	24.5%
641 Belmont	Harold C. Lehrer & Alice Becker	\$1,600,000	\$1,379,600	16.0%
500 Roslyn	Fred Shiff & Beth Prosterman	\$3,500,000	\$1,659,600	110.9%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$1,602,000 for the apartment, \$53,600 for each of three parking spaces.
²\$1,289,616 of amount in Montreal, \$50,384 in Westmount.

Information published here was researched by columnist Andy Dodge.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2019. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

Three sales of Westmount houses at less than \$1 million were actually the feature of August real estate transactions locally, only the third month this year that has reported any under-\$1 million home sales, and actually the most in that category since January 2018, when another three changed hands.

The lowest price was \$650,000 for a very small house at 536 Lansdowne Ave., which also sold in March for \$500,000 and whose attached neighbour sold in June for \$640,000, the only three sale prices in 2019 for less than \$900,000 so far. Both houses now have been gutted.

The mark-up from 2017 municipal evaluation at 536 Lansdowne was only 3.3 percent, the lowest for August, mark-ups which went as high as 66.9 percent for 642 Roslyn Ave., a house that sold for \$3,400,000. Even higher was the price paid

August transfers: Some low prices

for 3218 Cedar Ave., at Westmount’s eastern border, which sold for \$4,000,000.

With sales added for the June and July sales lists (see bottom of list), the number of sales in August was slightly lower than in the previous summer months, during a year where volume is definitely lower than average thanks mainly to the much higher prices of local real estate. So far this year the *Independent* has logged exactly 100 one- and two-family sales, while the 10-year average through August is 126, and last year was 107. Of the 100 sales, 57 were priced between \$1 million and \$2 million, and another 37 were priced over \$2 million.

Condominiums, on the other hand, became particularly popular in August, which counted seven sales and brought the third-quarter total to 14 with September closings still to come, compared to 15 in the previous three months, April through June. The average mark-up over valuation changed very little between the second and third quarters, at 18 percent, compared to the average for one- and two-family dwellings of 38 percent. Condo sales in August included a penthouse apartment at Château Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine St., with by far the highest price of the



642 Roslyn, biggest mark-up, 66.9%

month at \$2,350,000, one of only two condos above \$1 million. The least expensive condo to change hands in August was a second-floor unit at 267 Olivier Ave., corner de Maisonneuve Blvd.

The only non-apartment condo sales were the two units at 547 and 549 Grosvenor Ave., which were commonly owned before and which sold to a numbered company, thus basically still a duplex with the subdivision in place, through the deed specified an amount for each condominium.

The list also includes a piece of land in Westmount attached to a house on Grey Ave. that sold in August for \$1,340,000; the Westmount portion is all land and had a 2017 valuation of \$42,000. The notary suggests the Westmount portion of the sale was worth \$50,384 for transfer tax purposes.

Two corrections

In last week’s article about the new mu-

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534 and 536 Lansdowne, between them forming the three lowest sale prices of 2019 so far. (536 was sold twice.)



3218 Cedar, highest price, \$4,000,000

municipal tax bills, there were two errors.

The valuation of 4560 St. Catherine St. did not increase by 79 percent — and so the city tax bill will not increase by 49.9 percent. In fact, the valuation increased to \$8,540,000, up 58 percent from the 2017 valuation, and thus the tax bill is up “only” 32.8 percent, still the highest tax hike in our sample. We tested several apartment buildings and found the majority are getting valuation increases of 30 or 40 percent, and thus tax hikes of 9 or 17 percent. Apartment buildings are supposed to send their financial statements to the valuation de-

partment on a regular basis, and these are an important factor in determining their market value.

Secondly, it was incorrectly stated that “ratepayers should be reminded that if they do not pay the first instalment on time, the entire tax bill becomes payable immediately, and interest will be charged on the entire amount.”

Apparently this practice has been dropped in recent years, city officials say. Interest is only charged on the amount due at any given time.

The *Independent* regrets the errors.

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Armoury, cont'd. from p. 1

tions Squadron moved out, citing in part the building's condition (see story April 1, 2014, p. 1).

A 60-page development submission to the city that has since been posted on the city website includes a table showing the differences and challenges between demolition and restoring the building, which would still require at least 50-percent demolition.

Heritage rating

While the building holds a Category II heritage rating from Westmount, which sometimes is a factor in the city's decision to allow a demolition, Girlando said the former armoury was considered much lower on a scale used by the federal government.

The new project's density (floor-area ratio) is listed as one of the zoning variances, but Girlando maintains that the new building's volume will remain unchanged

because of the smaller footprint.

Plans for the new red-brick building called Hillside Parc have been presented for consultation to nearby neighbours, he said. These include those in the next-door condos at 11 Hillside Ave., whose eastern units are close to the armoury's west wall, which would now be set back some 10 feet to provide increased daylight. A larger setback of some 35 feet (compared with 8 feet) is proposed between the project's north wall and the large apartment building directly behind at 4400 St. Catherine, corner Hillside Lane.

There are to be 10-foot setbacks along both streets where the existing building runs almost along the sidewalks.

To relocate transformers

Another benefit, Girlando said, is that "we will pay for removing the huge, visibly polluting electrical transformers up the back of the armoury and creating a lower four-foot high installation on the ground" that can be hidden by bushes.

Since Girlando and partners purchased the property in December 2018, asbestos has already been removed, and lead has been either removed or encapsulated following issuance of a city decontamination permit earlier this year, he said.

This is a step that would be required regardless of the demolition plan, he said. There is also soil behind the building to be decontaminated.

"We're hoping to have the favour of the commission" (PAC), he concluded adding the project should take 16 to 18 months to complete after a permit is obtained.

Detailed preliminary construction estimates accom-



A rendering of the proposal from the developer's submission to the city, looking west from the Westmount Athletic Grounds.

SOURCE: CITY OF WESTMOUNT WEBSITE.

pany the development proposal from architect Maurice Martel, and studies including on traffic, sun, structural integrity and heritage. These can be viewed on the city's website under Resident zone, Urban Planning, SCAOPI, 1-3 Hillside.

Real estate developer Karl Beauchamp,

whose group had purchased the vacant property in March 2017, abandoned a plan to convert it into a sports centre and put it back on the market given the time it was taking to acquire a city permit in what is now the residential zone (see story October 23, 2018, p. 1).



A rendering of the proposal, looking north from Hillside Ave.



The current building on January 29, looking north from Hillside Ave. (left) and Hillside Lane (right).

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Hugging Monty



Handsome Monty is affectionate and playful, such a sweet family cat.

Monty is a loving seven-year-old grey-and-white tabby, a hugging companion and purring soother. His previous family could no longer care for him and he is now in boarding at the Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB looking forward to adoption.

Monty is very healthy, neutered and has been updated for his inoculations. He had been declawed on all his feet when he came to the clinic though, which makes him an indoor-only cat. Since he can't defend himself, it would be best that he be the only cat in his new home.

If you would like more information on Monty, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic reception staff at 514.935.1888 or drop by for a visit as they are open seven days a week. It is located at 3400 St. Antoine St. West, corner of Greene Ave.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

A young 'Bear' ready for adoption



Beautiful hunky Bear, a young three-year-old golden Labrador mix in need of the Westmount Labrador life with walkies on the Summit, socializing in the dog runs, hopping in the car to ride the back seat, and snuggling on the sofa snoring!

Bear is a young-at-heart sporting fellow who loves his playtime and long walks. He is healthy, neutered, and up to date with his inoculations. He would need a family as soon as possible as he is kenneled at the SPCA Montérégie at the moment and is losing the opportunity to bond and socialize in a home environment.

Please contact the devoted volunteers at the SPCA Montérégie shelter at info@spcamonteregie.com for more information on Bear, to make arrangements to take a scenic drive and visit their adoption facilities at 178 Chemin du Vide in St. Angèle de Monnoir.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Defibrillator, cont'd. from p.3

was never very good at."

The city has since installed defibrillators in municipal buildings. There are two at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), one at the rink level and another upstairs for the fitness room, according to Lapointe. "We also have a mobile one that we can use for example for soccer."

Mike Deegan, former city director general and a former Sports and Recreation director, who has also played hockey with Puni, but who was not there, said the incident is "quite a testimony to the foresight of council to equip our facilities with defibrillators and the execution of staff and citizens working side by side.

"I am very grateful that my friend is

alive today because he was in such good hands."



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Mont VR moves – LIDS, Arevco closing

to the mall's Metro level. And it's still great. There is now a large area where players/gamers can wear a backpack, goggles *et al.* It's open daily, so make a trip and see what this amazing experiential moment is all about. Open daily.

Back for Valentine's Day

The Maison Christian Faure pastry shop on Sherbrooke at Claremont is closed temporarily for renovations until Thursday, February 13.



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Police Report

Westmount woman, 73, hurt in purse-snatching

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Officers from the Montreal police department's Station 12 are searching for a male suspect who faces an armed robbery charge after snatching a purse from a 73-year-old Westmount woman while violently shoving her to the ground.

The incident took place a few minutes before 10 am on January 29 on de Maisonneuve Blvd. near the corner of Victoria Ave.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, a phone call was received at the station around that time informing the police staff.

"The plaintiff was walking east along de Maisonneuve," said Pimentel. "And while crossing over from the north side of de Maisonneuve to the south side of the street, she was pushed on her back and so she fell."

He said the woman didn't see her assailant long enough to be able to describe him. However, she did notice that he was driving a bicycle. As she was lying on the ground, he took her handbag and left with it.

Although the victim didn't suffer any

major injuries, the police report noted that she complained of pain in her back afterwards.

In addition to losing the purse, she lost several personal items that were inside it, including identification and banking cards.

The police investigators searched for eyewitnesses as well as local security cameras that might have been pointed in the direction of the crime – but found nothing.

The investigators referred the woman to the Montreal branch of the Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (Crime Victims Assistance Centre), an organization that operates a province-wide network that offers a range of services to persons who've been impacted by crime.

Pimentel suggested that anyone carrying a purse with a long strap should never place the strap around their neck, as this is often how purse snatching victims end up being injured.

"Place it on just the shoulder and keep your hand on it," he said. "If somebody snatches your purse, better to let it go rather than being injured when you're thrown to the ground. It's easier to replace

IDs and credit cards than dealing with injuries."

No licence? Car impounded

A teenage driver who slammed into the rear of a car idling at a red light at the corner of Sherbrooke and Redfern around 3:15 pm on January 24 had his vehicle seized by police after they realized the 16-year-old had no driver's license or car registration documents.

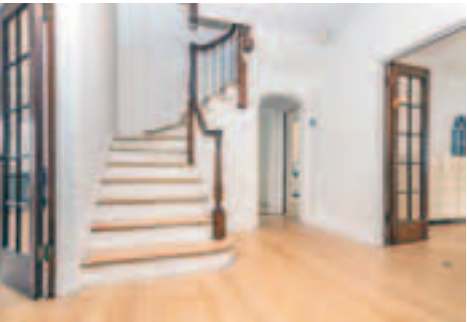
Both vehicles were headed west on Sherbrooke. The younger driver, who was a South Shore resident, told police who intervened at the scene that he didn't have time to apply the brakes.

The driver of the car that was impacted reported some back pain afterwards, although there were no serious injuries.

The police issued several statements of offense to the teenage driver, including driving without a valid driver's license and driving without vehicle registration.

The police report blamed the accident on "driver inattention," a well as on the fact the second driver was following too close behind. The teenage driver's car was impounded and the police informed his parents.

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Bryan Pierre
«Je suis et je vais»
"I am and I will"

Helen Rossiter




Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Goodman Cancer Research Centre Celebrates



Marc Weinstein, Dr. Morag Park, Sharon Steinberg, Mia Melmed Goodman and Brian Thompson.

On a bitter windy night, Bob Perras' valet team quickly whipped cars away so that guests could enjoy the Goodman Cancer Research Centre (GCRC) evening held in the Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building.

Hosted by Westmounter **Mia Melmed Goodman**, the evening was a paean to the commitment of the Goodman team, a dedication that is powering major research at the centre.

Mia is also spearheading this June's Goodman gala – Collaborate to Cure: Momentum 2020.

Gala committee members present included Westmounters **Jewel Lowenstein, Barry Pascal and Judy and Mark Caplan**, as well as **Janis Lee Levine, Geeta Suchak, Martin Wong, Maxyne Finkelstein, Nicole Kremer, Ilana Einheber, Michael Corber and Lillian and Morris Goodman**, co-founder of the centre.

Mia paid tribute to her late mother-in-law **Rosalind Goodman**, who, with her husband Morris, started looking for ways to support cancer research over 10 years

ago. She complimented the centre's progress, praising the inspiring collaboration between the senior and the new generation of researchers, some of whom were present including **Sidong Huang, Arnim**

Pause, Luisa Izzi, Nicole Beauchemin, Thomas Duchaine, Alain Nepvu and Logan Walsh, there with his wife **Daniela Quail** and their 5-month-old son **Oakley**.

GCRC director **Dr. Morag Park** ex-

plained that with the announcement of the Lung Cancer Network in 2018, the centre is moving away from working in traditional research silos to a networked, collaborative

continued on p. 22

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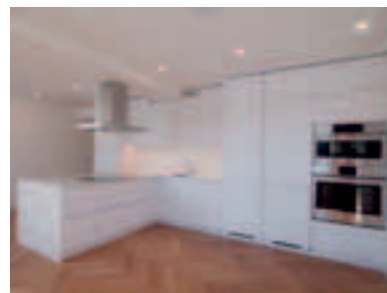
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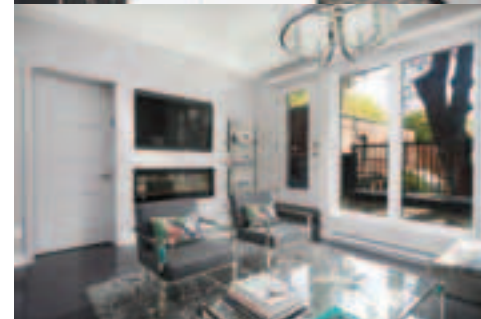
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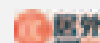
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A photograph of three women standing together and smiling. The woman on the left has short blonde hair, wears glasses, a dark blazer, and a gold necklace. The woman in the center has long brown hair and is wearing a dark blue turtleneck. The woman on the right has short brown hair and is wearing a purple and black patterned top. They are all smiling at the camera.

A photograph of three men standing side-by-side, smiling for a photo. The man on the left has grey hair and is wearing a dark blue suit with a patterned tie. The man in the middle has dark hair and is wearing a blue suit with a striped tie. The man on the right is bald with a beard and glasses, wearing a grey suit with a white shirt and a pocket square. They are in an indoor setting with other people in the background.

A group photo of four people. From left to right: a woman with blonde hair wearing a dark turtleneck; an older man with a white beard and glasses wearing a dark jacket; a man with a beard and glasses wearing a dark jacket, holding a baby in a white onesie; and a woman with dark hair wearing a dark jacket with a teal scarf. They are standing in front of a wall with vertical wooden slats and framed pictures.



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Comin' Up

► Public presentation of the Hillside armoury development project. See story p. 1. City hall. 8:30 am.

To include your event in Comin' Up, write us at editor@westmountindependent.com.



MARIE SICOTTE

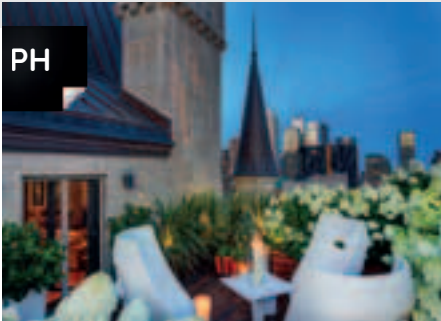
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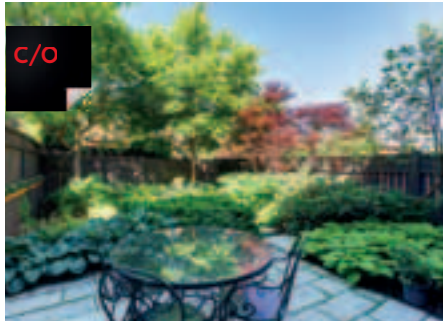
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