

To define scope of project: Cllr. Peart

Design contract awarded for revitalizing city's southeast sector

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Stalled plans by the city to “revitalize” its southeast sector resumed January 15 when council awarded a contract to the architectural firm of Lemay CO Inc. for

design and consultation.

The project had been dormant since before the November 2017 municipal election.

The recent contract at a maximum of \$143,719 including taxes, “will help us define the scope of the project,” said Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner. It is “a huge step forward,” added Mayor Christina Smith.

The area, immediately west of Atwater, includes the commercial strip of St. Catherine and residential zones south to Dorchester including the exterior Tupper parking lots, which are owned by the city. It has been under a development freeze since August pending continuation of the project (see story August 29, p. 1).

Previous recommendations commissioned from continued on p. 8



The city's “eastern” Tupper parking lots on January 22.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Aim: To improve salaries, work-life balance

Council okays agreement with white-collar workers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A five-year collective agreement for 2023-2027 between the city and its white-collar workers – the administrative staff – was approved by the city council December 18 based on improvements in salaries and reported family-life balance.

A summary of the settlement provided last week to the *Independent* by interim HR

director Roslane Medioun followed what he described as a “very productive meeting with the union” based on “the main priorities for our employees.”

Improvements in working conditions include “more flexibility on a day-to-day basis and implementing a telework letter of intent.” This involves remote work from home making use of the internet, email and the continued on p. 5



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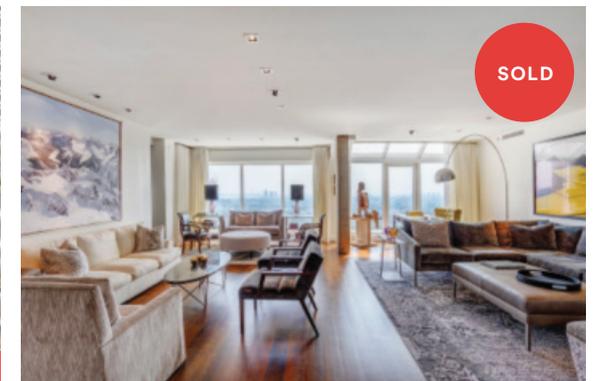
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Don't mix personal, public life: Mayor Smith

In opening statements at the start of the January 15 council meeting, Mayor Christina Smith re-iterated a previous appeal to residents to preserve the privacy of her family and contact her at city hall when they have comments concerning her job (see also story May 8, 2023, p. 1).

Just before Christmas, Smith said a resident "quite known to the city," approached her youngest daughter to share his comments related to Smith's job and also said "there is a restraining order" against this person.

While "nothing grave happened," it "definitely was crossing the line," she said. This is a reminder, she continued, that her family is "off limits."

- LS.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

Email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

T's Takes: Ice hazard develops on Murray Hill



Several fellow dog walkers pointed out this hazard to me on January 16. Clearly, the snowmaking machines in King George (Murray Hill) Park have been leaking and created a huge solid slab of ice all the way to Côte St. Antoine Rd. Following messages from me to Public Safety, Public Works and city councillor Anitra Bostock that morning, assistant Public Security director Kim Colquhoun telephoned me and some action was taken to cordon off the ice with tape and cones (see picture). Unfortunately, the ice is now covered with a thin layer of snow, making it even more hazardous. I saw one woman fall, but she was okay. The tape has since come down.

PHOTO & OPINION CAPTION BY RALPH THOMPSON



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City: Work needed to meet impact of climate change

City to seek external advice on upgrading Hydro Westmount



The Murray Park and Olivier Ave. electrical substations on January 19.



PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In light of what the city describes as Hydro Westmount's rising costs related to climate change and infrastructure investment, it will be seeking "outside expertise, in the coming weeks," Mayor Christina Smith announced at the January 15 council meeting. This is "a first step" to provide "a better understanding of our options, timelines and capital costs."

Seeking external advice is "the homework we need to complete, facilitate and dialogue with Hydro Quebec," she said. Though Hydro Quebec supplies the power to Hydro Westmount, it is the city's independent utility that redistributes it locally.

In this respect, two challenges are facing the city's utility, she said. One is its inability to pass on rising costs to users due to its agreement with Hydro Quebec.

The other is to "significantly upgrade its infrastructure" to meet Hydro Quebec's estimated doubling of demand for electricity by 2050.

These are, in fact, among the reasons the city had cited in 2021 for creating a two-year *ad hoc* governing board for Hydro Westmount to guide and prepare the utility "in its new challenges in environmental and technological matter," Councillor Jeff Shamie had explained at the time. "We need to get Westmount ready for the green revolution" (see story June 22, 2021, p. 1).

Playing catch-up

"While we are investing a record \$4.5 million in Hydro Westmount this year," Mayor Smith said in her statement, "we are playing 'catch-up ball.' Further investment is required to modernize our network, cover the cost of converting our sub-

stations from 15 kV to 25 kV as required by Hydro Quebec and introduce smart meters."

Westmounters, she added, "take enormous pride" in Hydro Westmount, which is responsible for delivering electricity, and for installing and maintaining street lights and traffic signals. The network comprises 165 kilometers of underground conduits and 60 kilometers of street lighting. There are also portions of the network above ground.

The four substations are managed by a staff of approximately 30 employees who provide around-the-clock emergency service seven days a week.

Westmount is one of nine independent municipal power utilities and one cooperative that comprise AREQ (the Association des redistributeurs d'électricité du Québec).

'New substation'

It was in 1997 that the city completed construction of a \$3.48-million substation, (under the Lawn Bowling Club) for which the city obtained a Canada-Quebec Infrastructure Fund grant. Described as a highlight that year, it gave the utility two new 15-kW class incoming lines from Hydro-Quebec's Poste Maisonneuve station, according reports at that time.

The three other substations are on Olivier, on Glen Rd. and in King George (Murray) Park.

"Hydro Westmount is a key vehicle for achieving our sustainability targets," Mayor Smith explained. "We must invest in it and provide it with the tools and resources required to modernize its operations."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MUNICIPAL, THEN FEDERAL,
ECO-HYPOCRISY

For the second time in less than two months, our politicians say one thing, yet do something completely opposite. In the first case, the city has changed its garbage collection policies and procedures in what they say is an attempt to reduce waste and help the environment. That said, the city then begins production of a monthly, yes monthly, multi-page flyer that will be delivered to all homes in Westmount. Reduce waste, and then create more of it? What am I not understanding here?

Then, our federal MP, Anna Gainey, also talks about how “together” we can all work to help create a clean environment. And how does she do that? By producing an eight-page holiday flyer delivered, presumably to all homes and apartments in the Westmount-NDG riding. Again, say one thing, yet do the opposite.

Can someone please explain why our politicians continually appear to talk out of both sides of their mouths.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

CITY BANNED, THEN ALLOWED
GASOLINE LEAF BLOWERS

This is in response to the question in a letter in the November 21 issue (p. 9). In your October 10 edition, the city announced in its infoWestmount page (p. 18) that it was “granting a tolerance period for gas-powered leaf blowers for the fall 2023 period related to supply problems with electric

devices. Our crews will be trying out the City’s new equipment in our parks this fall.”

Readers should be aware, however, that Westmount passed a regulation in November 2022, prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers as of October 1, 2023. Numerous other boroughs and independent cities in the Montreal area have passed similar by-laws, including Ville Marie (downtown), CDN-NDG, Montreal West, Outremont, St. Lambert, Verdun, the Southwest and Pierrefonds-Roxboro.

By supporting lawn maintenance crews to use rakes instead of gasoline-powered leaf blowers, and by leaving some leaves on your property, home-owners are also:

- Helping to prevent biodiversity loss by providing shelter in leaf piles for the eggs and larvae of pollinators like bees and butterflies, and of caterpillars necessary for birds to feed their young in the spring.
- Reducing the emission of toxic gases like smog-causing nitrogen oxides and greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.
- Protecting plants by piling leaves as mulch on garden beds.

ELIZABETH ROBINSON, DOWNTOWN

Editor’s note: Thank you. You have found out why letter-writer J. Lee (November 21, p. 9) was told by Westmount Public Security that gasoline-powered leaf blowers were acceptable this year. I did not have this information at the time and so my own note in that issue was wrong/incomplete. – DP.

City column

City doing its homework on
Hydro Westmount’s strategy

BY CHRISTINA SMITH & JEFF SHAMIE

Extreme weather from forest fires to tornadoes is constantly dominating the headlines and putting the climate crisis at the forefront of public policy decisions.

Not surprisingly, sustainability is central to city council’s decision making, from road design to the vehicles we purchase and our approach to water retention and the building of catch basins.

But we need to do more, which is where Hydro Westmount comes in. It is a key vehicle for achieving our sustainability targets. We must invest in it and provide it with the tools and resources required to modernize its operations. This represents a multi-year project, but we need to launch the process now. As a starting point, we wish to provide an overview of the situation and share our approach with you.

Hydro Westmount: A source of pride

Westmounters take enormous pride in Hydro Westmount, which is responsible for delivering electricity to our homes and businesses and for installing and maintaining our streetlights and traffic signals. Its network comprises 165 kilometers of underground conduits, plus an additional 60 kilometers for street lighting. It has four substations located at Olivier, the Glen, King George Park and under the bowling green. This is all managed by a staff of approximately 37 employees who provide around-the-clock emergency service seven days per week.

I should point out that Westmount is one of nine municipal power utilities and one cooperative that comprise AREQ (the Association des redistributeurs d’électricité du Québec areq.org/en/about-us). We are, however, the only member in the Montreal region and the only one that does not generate its own power.

The challenges

There are two, interrelated, challenges facing Hydro Westmount. First of all, it is unable to pass on its rising costs to users; and secondly, it needs to significantly upgrade its infrastructure.

While Hydro Quebec (HQ) has over the years kept energy price increases for individual Quebecers to a minimum and for the most part below the rate of inflation, it has not extended the same generosity to Westmount and its other municipal customers that distribute their own power. Yet, Hydro Westmount has been unable to pass on the entirety of its ever-increasing cost

of power to its clients. It is important to note that other costs have also risen and for the most part been absorbed by Hydro Westmount.

While we are investing a record \$4.5 million in Hydro Westmount this year, we are playing “catch-up ball.” Further investment is required to modernize our network, cover the cost of converting our substations from 15kV to 25kV as required by Hydro Quebec and introduce smart meters.

Moving Forward

While it was created in 1946, it was in the early 1960s that Hydro-Quebec acquired independent power companies and became the driving force behind energy development in Quebec. At the time, it was granted the exclusive mandate to develop new sites, which led almost a decade later to the historic James Bay project.

Today, we are on the eve of another major milestone in Hydro-Quebec’s history.

As announced recently by Michael Sabia, Hydro-Québec plans to massively ramp up investment over the next 12 years to boost production capacity, improve energy efficiency and significantly reduce power outages as individual and industrial demand in the province skyrocket. He pointed out that 75 percent of the new generating capacity will be dedicated to decarbonizing the economy — by replacing natural gas and heating oil in buildings with electricity, and by ensuring that electric cars gradually replace their gasoline-powered counterparts on Quebec roads. He also stated that electricity demand is expected to double by 2050.

It is critical for Westmount to keep pace with this transformation, particularly if we want to meet our sustainability targets as well as the needs and expectations of our residents. That is why as a first step we will be issuing a request for proposals in the coming weeks in order to secure external expertise to help us to develop our strategy and get a better understanding of our options, timeline and capital costs. This is the homework we need to complete to facilitate a constructive dialogue with Hydro Quebec and protect and promote the best interests of Westmount.

Please rest assured that council members will keep you advised of developments and our progress.

Christina Smith is the mayor of Westmount. Jeff Shamie is the commissioner of administration and of Hydro Westmount.

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HR interim appointments made by city council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council December 18 appointed interim officials for the Human Resources department due to parental leaves to take effect Jan. 4, explained Mayor Christina Smith.

These include interim director Roslane Mediouni and Richard Pires.

Mediouni, said he started with the city as an intern in the HR department and has had the opportunity to work in every aspect of the department and “the pleasure” of being part of the Westmount family for most of his professional career “and haven’t regretted one minute.”

Pires, the interim assistant director, has been with the department since February 2019, mostly in charge of health and safety, especially at first.

“The timing of his appointment and the experience he brought to the team were essential when the pandemic hit,” explains Mediouni.

“He has been a great asset and has demonstrated he could play a role in more aspects than only health and safety.”

Agreement, cont'd from p. 1

telephone.

The salary adjustments date back to 2023 with a four-percent jump plus what Medioun called a “hyper-inflation” recognition and signing bonus. This is to be followed in the years 2024-2027 each involving inflation plus 0.75 percent increase at a minimum of 2.5 percent and a maximum of 4 percent.

Essential component

The white-collar workers are an essential component in the municipal administration, Mayor Christina Smith had stated in a statement on the city’s website. “They are present in all city services to provide quality services to the population.”

They had voted 88 percent on July 5 to give their union a mandate for pressure tactics and possible unlimited strike (see story July 11, p. 4). The union is affiliated with CUPE.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

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Happening near/in the Metro grocery store parking lot

Xmas would be cheaper in January!



As seen December 31. Earlier in December, they were \$49.99. Some trees were still there last week, but had disappeared by xx.

Partially fixed



The *Independent* published the inset December 1 photo last month, explaining that the traffic cone capped the wiring for a long-absent city lamppost struck by a vehicle on March 8, 2022. Well, now there is a more formal looking pedestal at the location, as seen January 15. Lamppost coming soon?

Partially broken



While it is not the intersection of two city streets, the junction of the Metro grocery store parking lot's northern entrance/exit and Victoria Ave. is one of the city's busiest. Small wonder it appears to be wearing out.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

More library stuff!

Corrections

Contrary to what we wrote last week ("Historical Association takes third look at library on eve of its 125th," p. 10), the historian and former chief librarian of the Westmount Public Library was in fact *Kathleen Jenkins* and the collector friend of former mayor (1900 to 1903) W. D. Light-hall was *Eben Picken*.

✱

Similarly, our coverage of the city's works attributed to Rembrandt was also incorrect. In fact, the library has seven such

works in a folio. Five are re-strikes/etchings done in the 1800s using plates created by Rembrandt. Two are copies.

New information

Furthermore, it turns out that the "missing" painting of the Hurtubise House is hanging in city hall in the Urban Planning department, archives librarian Lora Baiocco told the *Independent* last week.

Overheard

December 1, 11:30 am

Man into cell phone, Victoria & Somerville Ave.:

"This is such a scandal. I need to get to the bottom of this. I was salivating."

December 4, 7:45 am near Sherbrooke & Redfern Ave.

Selwyn student to another Selwyn student, while looking at some snow or ice on city hall's front walkway:

"How much you wanna bet someone already fell here?"

✱

Man to another man about a third man: "He's keeping himself in trouble."

✱

January 18, 2:30 pm

Canada Post sales representative to Westmount Independent's editor about the Westmount Independent

"...le fameux hebdo de Westmount..."

Editor's note: My favourite compliment in a long time. – DP.

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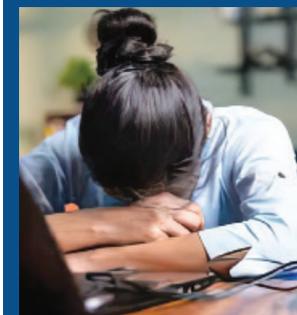
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Some of the *Independent's* coverage of southeast's buildings

"1100 Atwater tenants are mix of local, world-wide firms," August 18, 2020, p. 1

"Possible pavilion site was south side of St. Catherine west of Atwater – Cancelled Dawson expansion affects city's hopes for district," February 8, 2022, p. 8

"Construction guarantee confiscated from 4014-4022 St. Catherine," March 14, 2023, p. 1

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Southeast sector, continued from p. 1

AGIL Associates were posted in a note on the city's website (AGIL report). Its author, Clément Demers, AGIL's then director general, was subsequently appointed – and re-appointed last week – to the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). He has been described as an expert in his field (see also February 12, 2019).

In the city's recent call for tenders to reconsider the project, a total of six architectural firms submitted bids and were assessed on a grid system that includes quality, price and other criteria.

Looking back

Development of the diverse commercial/residential area has been under discussion for close to 10 years with public consultation and workshops starting in 2016.

Dating back to 2014, the commercial aspect of St. Catherine across from Alexis Nihon Plaza was upzoned to provide what the city considered a balanced entry to

Westmount's commercial area. However, a mixed-use tower that was approved for 4014-4022 St. Catherine, just west of Atwater, has never been built, leaving a large vacant area for which the developer's guarantee was recently confiscated (see story March 14, 2023, p. 1).

The city workshops in 2016 were attempts to develop an overall cohesive vision for the southeast sector to help link the heavily-built residential sector south of Dorchester to the commercial strip.

While many views were expressed at the meetings, which were attended mainly by residents to the south, most were reported to have said they wanted the area's village feeling preserved along with its walkability, easy access to restaurants and businesses but stressed the need for measures to reduce and slow traffic on Dorchester (see story January 26, 2016, p. 6). Other priorities included retaining green spaces and openness, and low profiles of buildings along the north side of Dorchester and the inclusion of a bike path.

When the final AGIL report was released,

no space had been allocated to a bike path as had been suggested and the Dorchester curve at Clarke was to be squared off. Rather than recommending the building of houses along the north side of the boulevard as the city had portrayed in initial public meetings starting in 2016, the report depicts residential buildings running north-south in several rows through what is now the Tupper parking lots.

While the file remained dormant, a highrise building rose immediately east of Atwater on land previously occupied by the Montreal Children's Hospital and the office building at 1100 Atwater at Tupper and Atwater underwent major renovations.

Some of the *Independent's* coverage of the city's 'southeast project'

2013 council – Mayor: Peter Trent (Christina Smith starting April 24, 2017)

"Citizens weigh in on SE development – Make it 'green,' safe & low-rise, vision workshop hears," January 26, 2016, p. 6

"Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed – minus bike path," June 21, 2016, p. 1

"'Street view' of southeast vision targeted for June presentation," March 21, 2017, p. 1

"Update on Dorchester vision expected in June," May 16, 2017, p.1

"Draft Dorchester vision sent back," May 30, 2017, p. 1

"Planning vision deferred to incoming council," September 12, 2017, p. 4

2017 council – Mayor: Christina Smith

"City to prioritize St. Catherine before Dorchester, Tupper lots," October 30, 2018, p. 1

"AGIL report now translated into English," February 12, 2019, p. 5

2021 council – Mayor: Christina Smith

"City imposes 90-day interim freeze on southeast/Tupper lot development," August 29, 2023, p. 1

"City extends freeze on southeast development," October 31, 2023, p. 1

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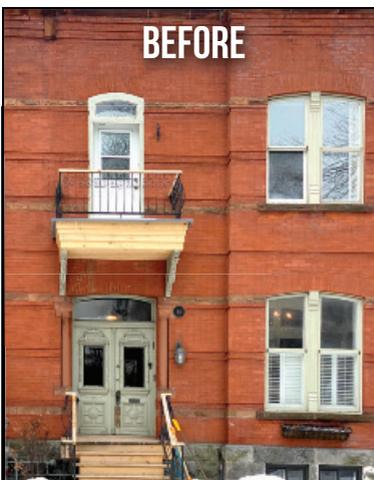
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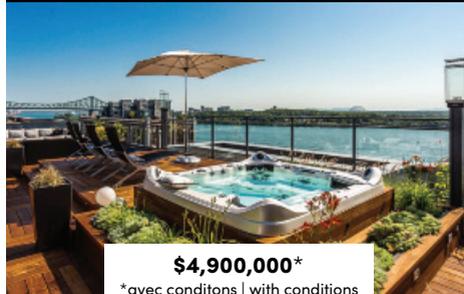
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City's offer for sports, recreation, library services

Neighbourly agreement with Tradau to be renewed

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A longstanding agreement between Westmount and a small part of Montreal's Ville Marie (downtown) borough is to be renewed in writing, according to a city council resolution December 18. This is a neighbourhood at the northeast city limits known as Tradau for two of its 13 streets, Trafalgar and Daulac.

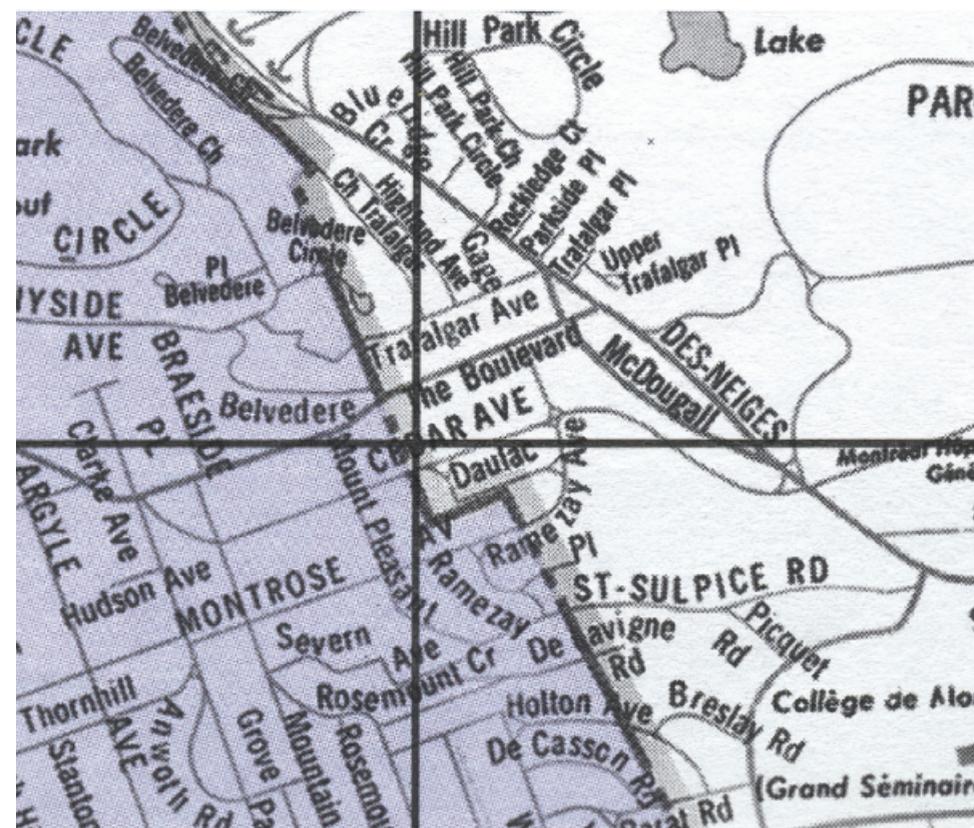
Moved by Councillor Mary Gallery, whose commissionership includes sports and recreation, this updated agreement will enable these residents to have access to the city's recreational services and library, which services it does not provide but for which it pays Westmount according to the numbers of those registering.

These streets include Trafalgar (Avenue and Heights), Daulac, McDougall, Gage Rd., Highland, Cedar, Ramezay, Breslay, de Lavigne, Holton, Picquet and St. Sulpice.

While the number of eligible residents varies, up-to-date information from Gallery states that of 360 eligible addresses, an average of about 20 households a year have registered. Fees are listed as \$280 for individuals and/or \$350 per family including a Westmount facility card.

Dates back to 1997

Arrangements were originally struck in 1997 between then mayors Peter Trent of Westmount and Pierre Bourque of Montreal after requests from various borough residents. Trent at one time proposed outright annexation of Tradau by Westmount

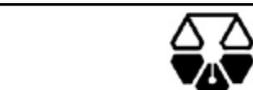


A map showing the northeast of Westmount in blue and the part of Montreal's Ville Marie (downtown) borough that includes Tradau (as well as other areas). MAP SOURCE: LOVELL'S DIRECTORY

in exchange for the Glen site, now occupied by the super hospital (see story March 31, 2015, p. 1).

Westmount's then director general

Mike Deegan, a former director of Sports and Recreation, called the offer of services "a nice gesture to those residents who live just outside Westmount."



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Police Report

Tracking system helps recover stolen RAV 4 by next day

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although a steering wheel lock proved to be ineffective in deterring the car thief who stole a late model Toyota RAV 4 from an upper Westmount street last week, police were able to locate and recover the vehicle by the next day thanks to an on-board tracking device.

According to Cst. Mike Yigit, Montreal police Station 12's community relations

officer, the car had been parked by its owner around 11 pm January 14 outside a Cedar Ave. home. However, by 8 am the following day the owner saw it was no longer there and realized it had probably been stolen.

Broken glass was found in the home's driveway, indicating the perpetrator had smashed a window to break into the car. Although the owner had installed a steering wheel lock, it failed to deter the theft.

The good news was that the vehicle was found within 24 hours parked on a street in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve in Montreal's East End. Cst. Yigit agreed that vehicle tracking systems have greatly improved the odds of resolving car thefts. "They help a lot," he said.

In recent years, the RAV 4 has made appearances on top-10 lists of the most stolen vehicles in Quebec and Canada. Out of 124,357 2019 RAV 4s that were insured, 425 (0.3 per cent) were stolen, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

The Acura RDX tops the stolen car list, with 4.1 per cent of the luxury SUV's 2020 versions reported stolen.

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Prince George – calling on a family with diabetic-routine experience



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Prince George is handsome and cuddly, a striking silver tabby with gold-shade eyes.

Very friendly and curious, he enjoys lounging and playing.

He is fitting in very well in the temporary foster family that has welcomed him for the Montreal SPCA.

George arrived at the shelter as declawed on all four paws, so he is an indoor-only cat. He is an active 12-year-old: healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Prince George has diabetes and it would be wonderful if a Westmount family that has relevant experience could adopt him. With a lifetime of pets behind them, some families have dealt with this kind of daily routine in the past and have a lot of knowledge.

Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then refer to Prince George's information page through his identification number, A0052392286. Please click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle on the upper right-hand side of the page, where you will provide contact information in order for the adoption consultants to get back to you with information on him and find out more about your interest in adopting.

Don't hesitate. George is a delightful fellow.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Topaz is unique and wonderful



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

A delightful two-year-old who was already a mom to a litter at a young age, Topaz has come a long way since being taken into foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions.

She is now moving on from puppy behaviour herself, catching up with her young-adult-dog framework while in the family environment of foster care. Topaz is very affectionate, playful, intelligent and loyal.

A funny, unique and endearing hound mix with a bit of wire-haired terrier, she is most likely a black-mouth cur mix from the southern United States, as her original owners adopted her via South Carolina.

Topaz is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

With family socialization, she is keen to please and enthusiastic during daily leash training and playtime.

She is good with children and would be best with children 10 years and over. She enjoys fetching and interactive games, so playing in a fenced backyard would be perfect for her.

Topaz is still getting used to other dogs and cats, as are most young dogs at that stage of growth, and she is progressing well. If you would like more information on her, please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions through their website at www.gerdysrescue.org or email them at their info@gerdysrescue.org address.

You can also follow them on their Facebook page. Please reach out for Topaz, she is a wonderful companion.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Ilios Soirée brings awakens memories, makes new ones



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Panayiota Papadopoulos, Maggie Pagonis, Kathy Hamelin, Bernice Tzicas, Belle Grivakis, Maria Korogiannis, Jane Lekas, Katie Papoutsis, Sandra Khoury, Daisy Giagkos and Dina Kafallinos.

Milos is my madeleine cake: Greek-cooking aromas trigger memories, just as the small confections did for Proust's narrator in *Remembrance of Things Past*. I once lived on Mykonos for a month – before it became wall-to-wall yachts-and-discos.

So it was a great pleasure to visit the internationally-famous *estiatorio* (restaurant) where the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society recently held its Ilios Soirée. The chic evening began with cocktails and segued into a sit-down dinner showcasing Milos's five-star signature dishes.

The organization's president Belle Grivakis worked with co-chairs Maria Korogiannis, Katie Papoutsis and Daisy Giagkos. Hard-working committee members were Panayiota Papadopoulos, Maggie Pagonis, Kathy Hamelin, Bernice Tzicas, Jane Lekas, Sandra Khoury and Dina Kafallinos.

The consul general of Greece **Katerina Varvari-** *continued on p. 14*



Sandra Dampolias and Helen Tyros.



Maria Korogiannis, Katie Papoutsis and Daisy Giagkos.



Olivia Wien and Elias Makos.

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From left, Harry Grivakis, Paul-André DeChamplain, Belle Grivakis, Ernie Grivakis, Diane DeChamplain, Maria Bogdanos and Javi Hernandez; seated on right: Bobby Vourtzoumis and Denise Vourtzoumis.



From left, seated: Cathy Crilis and Roula Saitanis; standing: Elias Bakakis, Marie-Eve Blais, Christos Farfaras, Sandra Dampolias, Angelo Papanikolaou and Fred Medici; seated: Chris Didaskalou and Jackie Farfaras.

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Social notes, cont'd from p. 13

gou; Montreal city councillor for Villeray-St. Michel-Park-Extension Mary Deros, and honorary co-chairs Sandra Dampolias (BMO) and Helen Tyros (Peartree Financial) addressed the sold-out crowd.

CJAD radio personality **Elias Makos**, there with his fiancée **Olivia Wien**, was emcee. Entertainment included dynamic performances by Black Mohawk Productions. Always a crowd favourite, the *über*-talented – and energetic! – electro violinist Dr. Draw kicked things off and performed throughout the evening. Belly dancers in elaborate costumes captivated guests. (How on earth do they move so well?!) Favourite Greek music was played by DJ **Andrew Pololos**. Helpful young volunteers sold raffle tickets for prizes ranging from fine art and jewellery to hotel stays and airline tickets.

Noted enjoying the evening were **Ernie Grivakis** and his son **Harry Grivakis**, **Diane** and **Paul-André De Champlain**, **Maria Bog-**

danos, **Javi Hernandez**, **Denise** and **Bobby Vourtzoumis**, **Elias Bakakis**, **Marie-Eve Blais**, **Christos Farfaras**, **Orla Johannes** and **Chris Konstantopoulos**, **Sandra Dampolias**, **Angelo Papanikolaou**, **Fred Medici**, **Cathy Crilis** and **Roula Saitanis**.

Diamond patrons were **Sandra Dampolias** – BMO, and **Ernie Grivakis** – VVS Films. Gold were **Andy Kragaris** – Au Vieux Duluth; **Deno Drimas** – Dorex (Canaropa); **Peter Mammias** – Foodtastic; **Mary Karamanos** and **Nick Tsatsoulis**; **Constantine Kyres** – Kyres Law, **George Kyres** – Alasko Foods; **Jean-François Prince** – RBC, and **Pat Savoia** – RBC Dominion Securities.

The event raised \$80,000 for the organization.

Created in 1922 the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society is an autonomous, chartered, non-profit organization. The first of its kind in North America, its mission is to help those in need within the Hellenic community in the greater Montreal area.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum – Second draft of By-law 1605

1. Following the public consultation meeting on the first draft of By-law 1605, held on October 25, 2023, the Municipal Council adopted the second draft of by-law 1605 entitled “BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1303 RESPECTING ZONING” by resolution, at its regular sitting held on January 15, 2024.
2. This second draft by-law contains provisions that may be requested by interested persons in order that a by-law containing them be submitted for their approval in accordance with the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* (CQLR, chapter E-2.2).
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk’s Office, no later than **January 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**, an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provisions of the second draft of by-law 1605 to the approval of certain qualified voters.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/

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D'Amico debates at European open in Croatia



Miriam D'Amico debates at European championships in Croatia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. D'AMICO.

Westmounter Miriam D'Amico, 16, participated for Team Canada in the semi-finals of a major European debating competition in Zagreb, Croatia, called the Winter Holidays Open (WHO).

Accompanied by her father, city councillor Antonio D'Amico, she was Team Canada's only member from Quebec. She

has since been invited to participate in the Oxford Schools International debates in Oxford, England in March.

Miriam previously won the 2022 and 2023 provincial debating championships, both held at Selwyn House (for more on the 2022 event, see story March 1, 2022, p. 8), and finished third nationally in 2023.

Carsleys honoured for their philanthropic efforts



Westmounters Marvin and Philippa Carsley are seen here in August 2022 outside the Montreal Heart Institute where a pavilion was named in their honour to recognize the couple's philanthropic efforts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS – QUEBEC CHAPTER.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

An entrepreneurial Westmount couple who are renowned for their philanthropy and support for some key Montreal institutions were recognized last year with an Outstanding Major Donor award by the Quebec chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The AFP celebrated National Philanthropy Day last November with an evening held at a downtown Montreal hotel. Marvin and Philippa Carsley were among the individuals and organizations recognized with

awards for their commitment and generosity.

Through the Carsley Family Foundation, the Carsleys have contributed close to \$15 million to the Montreal Heart Institute to fight cardiovascular diseases.

A pavilion at the institute was named in their honour in 2022 as a testament to the Carsleys' philanthropic impact.

Another Westmounter, Andrew Molson, who with his family was the winner of the AFP's Outstanding Philanthropist Award in 2019, co-chaired the 2023 AFP philanthropy awards selection jury.

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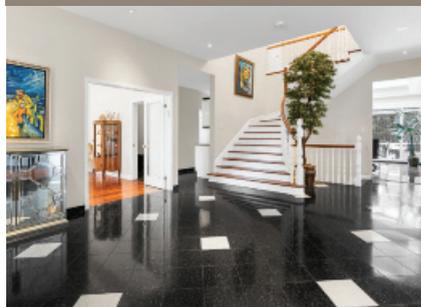
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