

STM launches \$5M suit against city over 20-year pumping of hydrocarbons

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) has launched a \$5.1 million lawsuit in Quebec Superior Court against the city of Westmount to recover what it claims are its costs of a “joint project” to pump out hydrocarbons from an area near the southern end of Glen Rd.

The process began in 1992 and was taken over last year by Transport Quebec in exchange for its expropriation of Westmount land for the Turcot project (see

story November 24, 2015, p. 1).

The STM alleges the city is responsible for failing to take adequate measures to prevent and contain the hydrocarbons from migrating from municipal land used by Hydro Westmount and Public Works into adjacent STM property. This was its former bus depot and garages. The site is now owned by Home Depot.

The transit commission’s motion to initiate proceedings was revealed at the city council meeting May 2 by Mayor Peter Trent. It is dated April 5.

Trent described the suit as “large by Westmount standards” and announced the city had already topped up a contingency fund for the *continued on p. 16*

Badminton comes to city hall



Evening light settles around city hall the evening of May 7, where two young Westmounters appeared and started playing badminton.
Photo: Ralph Thompson

City to phase in bilingual parking signs, de-clutter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Bilingual parking signs will be phased in slowly in Westmount as unilingual French ones wear out, Mayor Peter Trent announced at the city council meeting May 2.

This policy, he explained, “must be driven by the need to reduce clutter and confusion, not just to re-introduce bilingualism. Change will not happen overnight. Signs last well over 10 years and cost \$30 each with installation.”

As a city with bilingual status, West-

mount has always been allowed to erect bilingual traffic signs that pertain to safety but has been required since the 1990s to use pictograms or French-only parking signs. Until now, it seems.

The decision to phase in bilingual parking signs, he said, follows an April 19 letter to the city from the Office Québécois de la langue française (OQLF) “re-interpreting” its longtime position against them and now stating that parking signs are no longer classed as traffic or road signs, and therefore *continued on p. 4*

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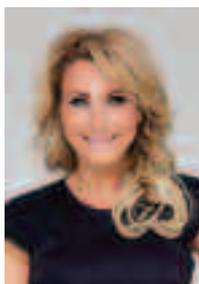


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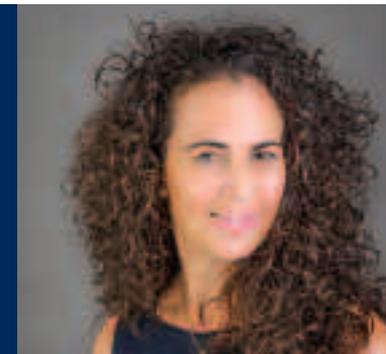
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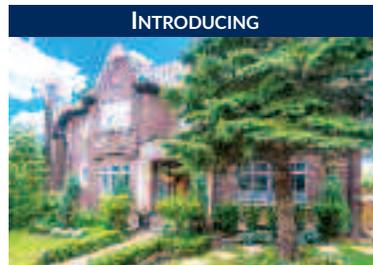
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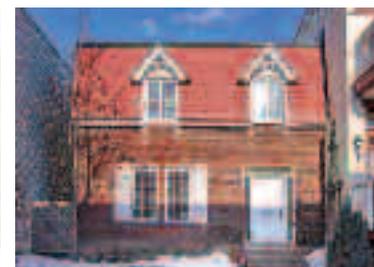
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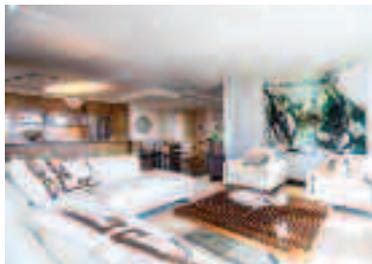
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City checks out Greene ‘dip’ after resident renews complaint a year later

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was almost a year ago on June 1 that Bruno Marchildon submitted a petition of Greene residents to the city council meeting asking for repairs to Greene south of

Dorchester. These included potholes, cracks and “a big dip in the street that creates vibrations” when hit by speeding cars and trucks.

These were causing small cracks in the old houses, he stated.

Fast forward to the council meeting May 2, and Marchildon was back again repeating his same concerns, which appeared to generate quick action.

The next morning, assistant director general Benoit Hurtubise went to the site to assess the problem to see what might be done, director general Mike Deegan said. He explained that last year Public Works crews had filled pot holes and cracks, thinking that would mitigate the vibrations.

Now, however, Hurtubise would be assessing the issue of the dip in the road and working on a remedy.

Hurtubise, who had attended the council meeting, heard Marchildon’s complaint firsthand.



Bruno Marchildon addresses council May 2.

No permit for Devon work?

A complaint of work at a house on Devon was referred to the city’s Urban Planning department when no permit was seen in the window, Public Security officials said. Officers were called to property April 30 at 5:56 pm by a neighbour concerned about the nature of exposed tree roots and that the site had not been fenced off.

Help given to confused woman

Public safety officers were called to assist a confused woman in front of 528 Mount Pleasant April 23 at 4:55 pm, according to Public Security officials. Her husband was contacted, who stated she had Alzheimer’s and arrived when Urgences Santé was called.

Pay-by-plate change now allows advance payment from 7 am

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s new pay-by-plate parking system launched May 2 has been readjusted to accept payment starting at 7 am.

In announcing the change May 5, city director general Mike Deegan said the rates will still not apply until 9 am but the change to accept payment earlier was made at the request of a user.

The change enables someone starting

work or with an appointment before the start-up time to park and pay ahead of time.

The issue had been worked on by the parking system company during May 3, the day the request was made to Public Security, officials said. The user replied the next morning that he had already used it successfully. “Thank you for acting so quickly on my request,” he stated in an email reply.

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may be bilingual in municipalities holding that status.

The law itself had not changed, however, Trent said.

“Since its about-face, the OQLF is, in effect, counselling us to flout the law as we see it,” he explained. The city’s own legal department, in fact, does not share the OQLF’s new position on parking signs, which has yet to be tested in court.

But with “so few” French-only parking signs in Westmount, and armed with the OQLF letter, he said the city would take the risk of replacing them but “at a glacial pace” and as part of a new comprehensive policy focussing on the de-cluttering aspect.

This policy would include a way to reduce the number of parking signs and create bilingual ones without increasing size, he said, displaying a mock-up of possible versions and sizes.

Since many of the city’s existing parking signs are either pictograms with or without applicable hours, it is the “residual” ones that would be replaced over time.

On the other hand, he said, the city is already moving to replace “about a dozen or

OQLF changes position



A mockup of three versions and sizes of parking signs shown at the council meeting May 2 by Mayor Peter Trent. At left: a unilingual French sign; centre: a bilingual sign showing French on top and English below (as prescribed by the OQLF); right: a hybrid bilingual sign reduced to the size of a unilingual one.

Image courtesy of Peter Trent.

two” unilingual-French traffic signs that apply to safety. These are ones that had “slipped through the net.”

‘A tempest in a théière.’ – Trent

Request came from activist

The city’s decision to phase out French-only parking signs follows a request from English language activist Harold Staviss, who has been communicating with Trent on the issue.

A resident of Hampstead, Staviss was

among those in the audience when Trent addressed the matter at the start of the council meeting. He was the only person, however, to speak to it during the question period.

“Why doesn’t Westmount follow other municipalities and replace all its signs now?” asked Staviss, who said he works at 4141 Sherbrooke, the office building at Elm.

“We have far more important things to do,” Trent replied. Parking signs were “not a matter of safety” as were those related to traffic. Earlier Trent had said the priority of the city’s Public Works department was the reconstruction of roads, water mains and sewers. It had “other things to do than mess about with parking signs.”

The signs had not been subject to requests for change in the past 25 years.

“It’s a matter of respect to the English community,”



A unilingual traffic sign as photographed May 5 in Beaconsfield.

continued on p. 5

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in letter to city

Staviss countered.

Contrary to what Staviss claimed, however, about “other municipalities” replacing signs, at least one traffic safety sign was seen in Beaconsfield last week stating simply “Attention à nos enfants.”

Bilingual status

The city’s bilingual status, Trent said, “means correspondence, council meetings, tax bills, information signs and our website can all be bilingual.” And traffic safety signs.

Unlike some of its “sister municipalities,” he continued, “successive Westmount councils in the 1990s took a more cooperative approach with the OQLF on the language of traffic and road signs – as long as Westmount’s ability to give bilingual services remained untouched.”

As far back as 1990, the OQLF found Westmount’s traffic and parking signs were not in conformity with the law, he explained.

“Finally, in 1995, the city of Westmount decided to replace its non-conforming signs, mostly some 1,000 parking signs, over three years, starting in 1996 at a cost of \$30,000.” Even

so, he recalled, the OQLF requested the city accelerate the process specifically with respect to parking signs.

In short, Trent said, he now finds the issue to be “a tempest in a *théière*.”



Harold Staviss asks for sign changes May 2.



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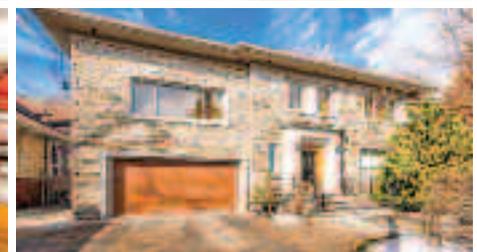
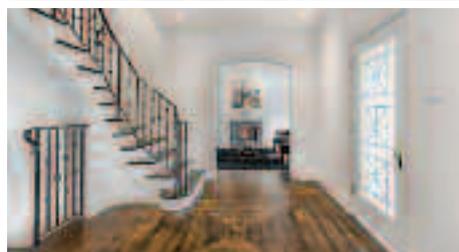
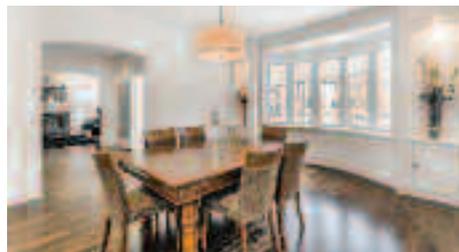


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR 4300...

Further to your article "4300 lays off whole staff suddenly" (May 3, p. 10), truly it seems the inmates have taken over the asylum. Only Donald Trump with his cruel statement "You're fired!" could top what happened at 4300 de Maisonneuve a couple of weeks ago.

On the pretext of insufficient security, *everyone* on the staff was fired - with no warning. They were told that they had to take a new course in security at *their* cost of \$500, and that they could then re-apply for their old jobs, with no guarantee that they would be available to them.

Almost every tenant I have spoken to has been in shock since, certainly including our loyal and efficient staff. If anyone disagrees, they have not had the courage to identify themselves.

Granted, maybe security has become a tiny bit relaxed (e.g. at the side-door entrance, and the staff not always announcing a visitor), but surely a warning would suffice, not a wholesale firing.

Please do not let this miscarriage of justice be forgotten on the grounds that we, the tenants, are not directly affected. Our staff are human beings, entitled to con-

sideration.

SHEILA WHITZMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

GREAT FOR THE BIKES

I read with interest the many, generally negative, comments about our bike paths.

I use the new paths almost daily, and I have found that drivers respect the paths, that traffic flow is much more orderly confined to a well defined lane and, most importantly, I feel much more secure with the marked bike lane than I did previously without.

It's not perfect but it's a big improvement.

JACK GLAY, VICTORIA AVE.

ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN

I read the letter from Andrew Gelber ("Only one thing makes sense in 'Share the road,'" May 3, p. 6), and I agree with him completely. I have been a resident of this wonderful city since 1973 and consider it to be very well run. This, however, is an accident waiting to happen.

When I first saw the bike lanes, I immediately thought what a bad idea this is.

All it takes is one car door to open, a cyclist swerves into traffic coming from behind to miss it, and you have a fatal accident. This should be removed ASAP.

GEORGE LACKENBAUER, HOLTON AVE.

BIKE LANE DIFFERENT THAN BIKE PATH

At last week's council meeting, I questioned Councillor Philip Cutler about why Westmount citizens need bike lanes for non-existent cyclists on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. and what hard data is sought during this "trial."

After failing to answer these questions, the truth finally surfaced. In reference to the bike lane on Westmount Ave., Cutler said: "I run on the path." (May 2 audio minutes on city of Westmount's website).

First, a bike lane is not a bike path. A bike path is a distinct dedicated route for cyclists such as along Lachine canal or separated from a road by a protective barrier such as along de Maisonneuve. A bike lane is an integral part of a road used by motorized vehicles. It's incredible that Cutler doesn't know the difference.

Second, Cutler, the main instigator of the bike lanes experiment, admitted to using the lanes he claims we apparently need for the safety of cyclists, as his own personal jogging route, as are many other runners now in both directions. Meanwhile, severe congestion is clogging up both streets. Is this the desired "traffic calming" touted in the brochure, which was only distributed to local homeowners, who were never consulted?

Residents are likely to become less calm as traffic worsens as a result of these bike lanes. As a public official, Cutler should not be putting his personal interests before those of the citizens he serves. He is also a member of Westmount's Transportation Advisory Committee, and if he doesn't understand traffic management or continues setting a bad example by using bike lanes for his personal running routine, he should resign or the road ahead risks getting very bumpy indeed.

STEPHEN TAKACSY, WESTMOUNT AVE.

ily members. They deserve to be protected from serious injury or worse by a well-designed cycling infrastructure.

Bicycle lanes with bollards are the very least that can be provided for their safety. As for excellent design, we should look to Côte St. Catherine in Outremont as the standard to be emulated. Even NDG has made significant strides in safeguarding everyday urban cyclists. Last year, they finally installed a protected cycling path with bollards along de Maisonneuve in the vicinity of the Vendôme Metro station. And NDG repaved its bollard-protected de Maisonneuve cycling path from Decarie to West Broadway. Kudos to them.

It is to be hoped that our readers from St. Henri will finally have some impact with their borough administration.

The de Courcelle cycle path extension to our Glen path is absolutely dangerous. Not only is there no bollard protection against heavy vehicular encroachment but its western side actually has its cycling lane in the door opening zone of cars. The police reported that in 2015 they filed on average three reports of dooring accidents per week in Montreal. And this is thought to be the tip of the iceberg.

The de Courcelle cycling path has the most atrocious pavement on the island. So not only does one have to watch out for encroachments, door openings, but also cracks and potholes. The situation is so bad that some Westmounters transport their family's bicycles by car to the Lachine Canal so they can enjoy that wonderful protected cycling path without risking the dangers and unpleasantness of the de Courcelle link to the canal. No one can blame them.

We can only wish our readers from St. Henri luck in correcting this long standing problem.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

Where is the last snow?



"This could perhaps be the start of an annual contest," wrote Forde Ave. resident Cary Kitner of her photo taken May 1 at 8 am on Forde Crescent. Photo courtesy of C. Kitner

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Water main breaks at Prince Albert



Repairs to a water main break at Prince Albert and Sherbrooke continued to take place around 5:30 pm May 2.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Plant exchange to launch seed lending program

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's yearly perennial plant exchange and sale takes place Thursday, May 19 with the launch of a new seed lending program being set up by the Westmount Public Library.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chairs the Horticultural Advisory Committee, the event's organizer, said the proceeds from the sale will be used this year to fund the start of the seed lending project. For the last two years proceeds have been used to fund the two new beehives, now self-sustaining, from the sale of their honey.

The seed lending program, which requires the initial purchase of seeds, will be augmented when people start collecting and bring in seeds from the plants they have grown.

The plant exchange and sale takes place as usual in the courtyard of the conservatory adjacent to the library between 6:30 and 7:30 pm.

People with perennials to drop off can do so from 4:30 to 6 pm. These contributors will be able to participate in the exchange and buy plants at a special time starting at 6 pm. The event is then open to all from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Plants cost \$2 for people without exchange vouchers.

Plants brought in for exchange must be freshly dug, potted and watered and restricted to six of any one variety, said co-organizer Danica Wunder. Volunteer workers include members of HAC as well as the Westmount Horticultural Society.

Annuals, shrubs, houseplants and invasive plants (goutweed) are not accepted.

Plants grown by the city for sale at the event include an array of perennials and herbs specially selected to attract decreasing populations of butterflies and honey-

bees.

Among those for sale are yarrow cassis, columbine Barlow mix, mountain sandwort avalanche, false rockcress Audrey red/purple mix, calamintha marvelette blue, chrysanthemum crazy daisy, blue delphinium, coneflower Cheyenne spirit and double decker, blanket flower Arizona red shades, lavender Provence blue, globe

thistle, lupine Russell mix, oriental poppy checkers, perennial sage new dimension blue and blue creeping thyme.

Herbs include basil, parsley, oregano, savory and thyme.

Milkweed seeds will be given out to help increase the habitat of the monarch butterfly, which lays its eggs on the plants for the emerging caterpillars to feed on.

Woman sustains large cut to forehead

A 71-year-old woman fell as she left a medical clinic at 4120 St. Catherine St. April 15, Public Security officials said. She suffered a large cut to the forehead and was bleeding from the nose and mouth area when officers arrived at 1 pm to provide medical assistance. She stated she had just received an eye injection and hadn't seen a step at the door. Urgences Santé took the Montreal resident to LaSalle Hospital.



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Bike routes creating 'highways,' council told

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Opponents of the two trial bike commuter routes on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. told the city council meeting May 2 the recently painted white demarcation lines made their streets look like a "super highway."

"What exactly are we trying to accomplish here?" asked Stephen Takacsy of Westmount Ave.

He "thanked" council for turning what he called peaceful, residential streets into unsightly commercial routes or highways. "No amount of paint in the world," he said, was going to encourage people in adjacent municipalities to cycle downtown to work or shop.

"Let's save our money to improve our network of pedestrian crosswalks" especially at schools. He decried the lack of a crosswalk at the intersection of Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard, for example.

He referred to studies indicating bike lanes were not needed or justified on residential streets and make them unsafe by

providing a false sense of security given the number of driveways every few meters.

Service or disservice?

Councillor Philip Cutler disagreed with the results of Takacsy's research. He stated, as he *continued on p. 12*



Stephen Takacsy questions council May 2 about the bike route on Westmount Ave., where he lives.

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Officials: Students enrolled in St. Léon are there to stay

Search is on for long-term solutions to population woes

BY ISAAC OLSON

At a May 3 special meeting hosted by the governing board of St. Léon, officials reassured parents that no enrolled student will, for the 2016-2017 school year, be transferred to a St. Henri-based annex or anywhere else for that matter – a change in plans that brought relief to many parents, but conjured up increasing concerns about the future.

“Our students who are presently in St. Léon will stay here in St. Léon for the entirety of next year,” began Julie Belhumeur, speaking in French. She is the director of management support with the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM).

There are 668 students currently in the St. Léon facility on Clarke Ave., and there are 96 students from the district going to a St. Henri-based annex designed to immerse new immigrants in the French language (*classes d'accueil*).

Now, she said, officials are looking for long-term solutions as the school's projections indicate the population numbers will continue to rise. The CSDM has asked the province to fund an addition onto the St. Léon facility and will get an answer this summer. Even if approved, additions take time to build.

In the meantime, officials are looking at ways of more efficiently using the current building's space. Other solutions might include sending some students to FACE school downtown or even redefining the school district's boundaries (see April 26, p. 8). As it is, the district reaches far into downtown, where there is an increase in families moving to the area. There is even a push to get a downtown school constructed to help alleviate the pressure.

“The territory is really, really, really wide because there weren't always that many families living downtown,” commissioner Marie-José Mastromonaco later told the *Independent*. “Right now, those children don't have a school nearby. There is a need for a school downtown.”

Bursting at the seams

However, the gathered parents still expressed concerns not only with a school that is bursting at the seams, but with what they feel is an uncertain future for their children. A letter telling them that their children may have to move was still fresh

on their minds. With more than 40 parents in the school's auditorium, many stood to bemoan the crowding and tell officials they are worried about an uncertain future.

The meeting was headed up by Belhumeur; Mastromanaco; Stéphanie Richard, president of the school's governing board; and Marie-Chantal Laroche, construction project manager for the CSDM.

One parent questioned the way the CSDM prioritizes its resources by designating buildings for adult education when so many children are being bussed far from their home.

Another said she chose the school for its size, services and reputation, but she has seen a decline in those services as the population increases. Others expressed concerns that siblings will be split up, going to different schools.

Mixed messages?

Most of all, parents were concerned about the mixed messages – one day they're getting a letter saying students may need to be moved to the annex and then they are hearing that, in fact, the population will stay put.

“There's no solution and then there's a solution,” said one mother in French. “I have the feeling that I am more in a boat than a school.”

Mastromanaco said that, given the population troubles throughout the CSDM, letters go out to parents requesting information about their future plans – asking if they will move or change schools. This is so officials can better predict student populations. The predictions are always changing because of new families moving into the area and, right up until opening day, it's hard to know exactly what to expect.

“That was one of the propositions that was possible – to move some of the children to Annexe Charlevoix to give a little bit more breathing room inside the building of St. Léon [in] Westmount,” she concluded. “But that option was rejected by the parents. They don't like that option. As I've said at a previous meeting, we were there to listen to them, and we did. They did not want to move, and we're not moving because they can still fit inside the building.”



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'Powerhouse' Scott receives humanitarian award

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter Sharyn Scott accepted this year's Laurie Normand Starr Humanitarian Award on May 2.

The award is given annually at the Table of Hope event. "It recognizes excellence in the leaders who have built organizations that serve their communities locally and or world-wide," explained Westmounter Peter Starr, who established the award in honour of his wife Laurie, who passed away in 2009. She had founded Taste of the Nation, which later (as Table of Hope), collected money for charities.

"Sharyn Scott is truly a unique local powerhouse, a constructive activist, who has given quietly and selflessly to her community for over 50 years. Her main focus has always been to help the young,



Sharyn Scott and her dog Harry in her Sherbrooke St. shop April 29.

the homeless, and the mentally challenged," he said in his presentation speech.

While still in her teens, Scott volunteered to work at the snack bar at the Douglas Hospital, Starr said in his presentation. With other Westmount mums, she established a nursery school co-op and day camp. The day camp was eventually assumed by the Westmount Y. As treasurer she worked with the elderly at Contactivity, and she was a long time board member at St. Michael's Mission.

She has also worked on her "pet project," L'abri en ville, which helps provides housing for people with mental illness.

Scott was accompanied at the ceremony by her daughter Tiffany and son Hunter and his children Charlotte and Angus.

Permanent De Lavigne roadblock to be restored, says Public Works

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A barrier of concrete flower planters on De Lavigne Rd. in Westmount at the city of Montreal border, which was in position for years but was recently removed and replaced with a temporary roadblock, should be back following completion of construction work on Atwater Ave., said the head of Westmount's Public Works department.

"That was removed by crews that are performing work for the city of Montreal in the Atwater and Sherbrooke area," Patrick Raggio said in a phone interview with the *Independent*, while adding that the work on Atwater involves underground water and sewer infrastructure.

"They removed the roadblocks because, as part of the phasing for the project, they were planning to block the entrance to Jean Girard," he continued, referring to the section of street that continues east of Westmount to Atwater.

According to Raggio, it was necessary to remove the roadblock because the work on Atwater, which has shut down the street's west-side lanes, could have blocked access to Jean Girard.

"Any resident on Jean Girard would be effectively stranded and obviously emer-

gency services, firefighters and ambulances and police wouldn't be able to get there if they needed to," he said. All the same, Jean Girard St. was accessible to traffic from Atwater on May 4 when the *Independent* visited the site.

"The roadblock was removed temporarily in order to facilitate the work during that phase of the project," he added. "Another temporary roadblock was installed I believe Thursday evening [April 28] around 2 am, so I was told, and it was confirmed the next day that it was completed."

Raggio said that an agreement between Westmount and Montreal stipulates that a dead-end must stay in place between De Lavigne and Jean Girard. "So far, they have communicated to me in writing that their commitment is to reconstruct the roadblock," he said.

He also said that Westmount Public Works isn't in a position to re-establish the roadblock, "because obviously if people remove a roadblock I have to assume that they do it for a reason. I can only assume that they did it for emergency purposes." He said he had been in contact with several residents of the area, including a former city councillor, in order to keep them informed of the situation.

Girl assisted during seizure

A 14-year old girl was transported to hospital April 27 after suffering a seizure on the sidewalk in front of 494 Victoria, Public Security officials said. A patroller spotted the girl at 4:12 pm as passers-by, in-

cluding a doctor, were assisting her. The street was blocked to traffic while awaiting an ambulance and fire department first responders. She was taken to St. Justine hospital.

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Seen looking eastward on May 4, a barrier erected on De Lavigne Rd. in Westmount, separating it from Jean Girard St. in Montreal, is temporarily replacing a more permanent roadblock of concrete planters, an example of which is seen on the far left of the photo.



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**Westmounter, 3 others
ticketed for beer
in park**

One Westmount man and three others were given \$77 tickets for possessing beer in Westmount Park April 17, according to Public Security reports. The four, ranging in age from 18 to 20, were seen during a routine patrol at 10:20 pm as they sat on a bench holding the open bottles.

**Teen theatre troupe comes back
to Westmount**



The Teen Tour Theatre Junior Group presented the play Magic Theatre to about 85 children and adults on April 17 at Victoria Hall, according to Wendy Wayling, children's librarian with the Westmount Public Library. The actors are between 13 and 16 years old from local high schools. The play was written by Sandra Matthews-Deacon and directed by Aviva Wolman-Wener, who founded Teen Tour Theatre. The troupe had performed at Centaur Theatre the day before.

Photo courtesy of W. Wayling.

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Bike routes cont'd. from p. 8

has done over the past six months, that the trial was a means of collecting data to determine, in part, "Are we actually providing a service or a disservice?"

The routes were opened April 22 on a budget of some \$2,000 to \$3,000 (see "New bike routes open," April 26, p. 3).

"The roads now look like a super highway," said Bruce Anderson of Côte Rd. He said the varied use of white lines in some stretches but "symbols" in others - such as those in front of Selwyn House and the Shaar Hashomayim - are confusing.

He handed Cutler a city of Montreal

map of bike routes in which, he said, the two new Westmount routes showed "no relevance to the system" and were "completely lost as backwaters."

**Not 'cricket' to play
without permit**

Ten to 12 cricket players were asked to leave the field at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) April 26, Public Security officials said. They were told they required a city permit to use it. The field had not opened for the season. The group was found at 6:25 pm.

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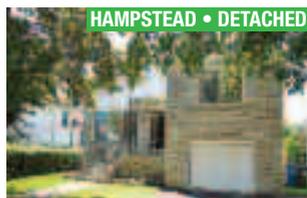
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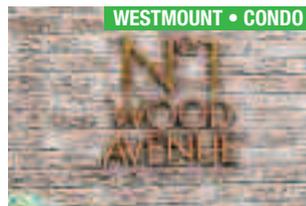
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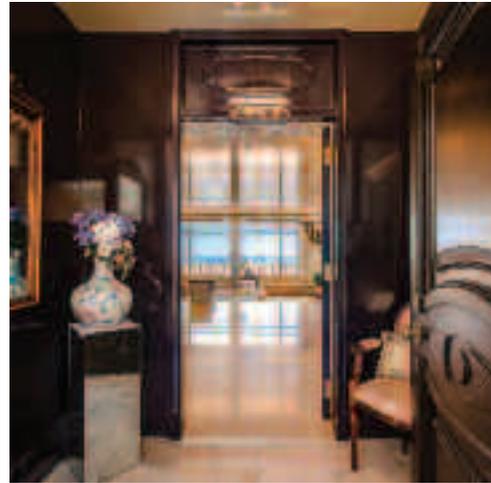
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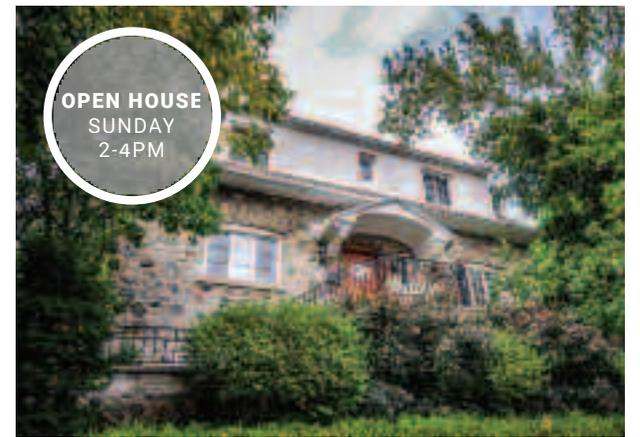


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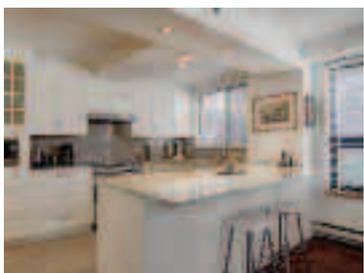
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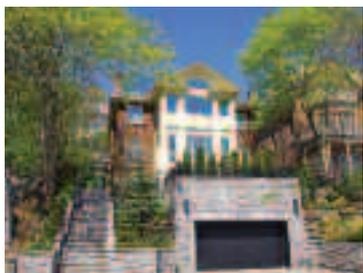


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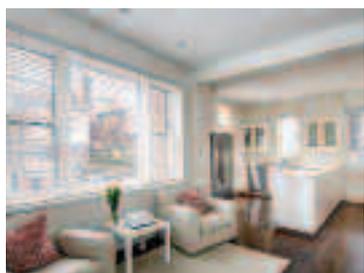
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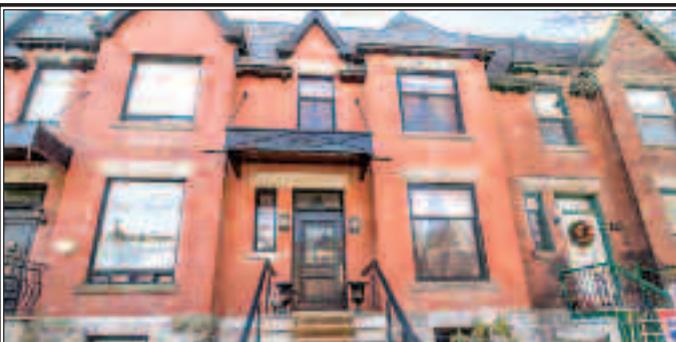
Exposed wires at the base of an electrical pole at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert were found sparking and smoking May 2, according to Public Security reports. Officers contacted Hydro Westmount and were told it would be safe to cover the wires with a cone, which they did. A call for the “smoking” wires was received at 8:18 pm.

From Westmount to Tonga



Former Westmounter and public affairs consultant Robert Valdmanis was in Tonga for the launch of an independent Tongan think tank, the Royal Oceania Institute, on March 30. It aims to advance fact-based research, analysis and foster open dialogue on a variety of topics. He is pictured here with Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi, the first-ever cardinal from Tonga, on February 14. Mafi is the youngest member of the College of Cardinals. Valdmanis currently lives a stone's throw from Westmount on Claremont Ave.

Photo of courtesy of R. Valdmanis



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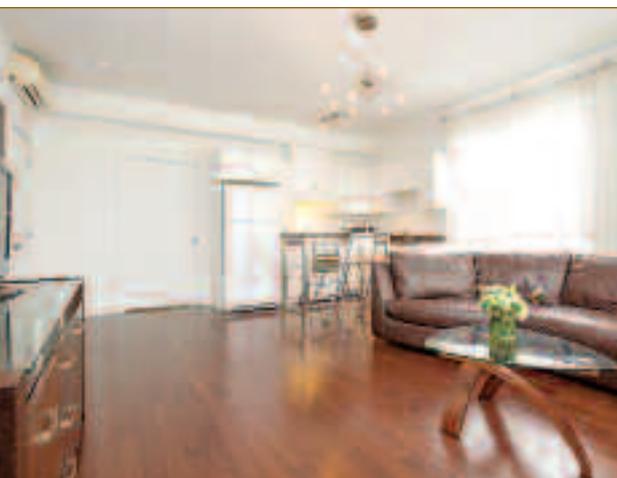
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5 violating curfew ticketed at lookout

Five people in their 20s were spotted on city security cameras consuming what appeared to be alcohol from silver-coloured cans at Summit lookout at 12:20 am. After questioning the group, patrollers issued

each a ticket for \$77 for violating the midnight park curfew. They were described as living in Pointe aux Trembles, Contracoeur, Tétreaultville and Montreal.

Lawsuit cont'd. from p. 1

purpose to \$5 million.

The pumping of hydrocarbons began after their discovery as a project between the two parties with costs said to be split 50-50. This agreement, the suit contends, was provisional “until the source of contamination could be determined.”

Westmount has already paid out an estimated \$5 million in its half of the ongoing costs (see story February 25, 2014, p. 1).

“Now for some reason we don’t understand, they want us to pay [another] \$5.1 million,” Trent stated. The STM claim provides lists of its costs for a total of that amount.

Source long disputed

The source of the hydrocarbons has long been disputed. In its suit, the STM cites reports by various consultants as saying the “most probable” cause of the fuels floating on the water table was the city’s old snow melting plant, equipment and petroleum reservoirs.

It notes, however, some fuels were of the type used in CP’s old Glen rail yard.

This site had had to be decontaminated before construction of the super-hospital.

City director general Mike Deegan told the *Independent* that in addition to paying its annual share, the city had also been setting up the contingency fund of some \$3 million in the event “the gentleman’s agreement” with the STM were ever “litigated.”

The contingency was subsequently topped up to \$5 million on the advice of auditors, he explained.

First found in 1992

The presence of the hydrocarbons was first brought to the attention of the city in May 1992 after fuel was found in sewers in St. Henri. When the Quebec Environment ministry required the contaminants to be cleaned up starting immediately, an agreement was struck between Westmount and the STM.

The agreement was subsequently renewed several times over the years, in documents described as accompanying the statement of claim.



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Rencontres d'auteurs : Maria Noriega Rachwal

Le mercredi 11 mai, 19 h. Rencontrez Maria Noriega Rachwal, auteure de *From Kitchen to Carnegie Hall* au Victoria Hall. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

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Le mercredi 25 mai, 14 h. *South Africa Today: 26 Years Post-Apartheid*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

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Le mardi 24 mai, 19 h. *Us Conductors* par Sean Michaels. Animation : Claire Holden Rothman. Info : 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Festival des artisans de Westmount 2016 : invitation aux artisans

Date limite pour appliquer : le vendredi 13 mai. Les artisans de Westmount sont invités à participer au Festival 2016, qui aura lieu les 12 et 13 novembre au Victoria Hall. Info : artisans@westmount.org, 514 989-5521, westmount.org.

Société opératique de l'ouest de Montréal

Le samedi 14 mai, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. La SOOM présente *The Gondoliers* de Gilbert et Sullivan. Billets disponibles à mwos.org/tickets, 514 990-8813 et au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

Film - Frédéric Back : Grandeur nature

Le dimanche 15 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Réalisé par Phil Comeau. L'œuvre de Frédéric Back, artiste et cinéaste d'animation, est immense, son message irrésistible. Projection présentée en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5226.

Échange de plantes vivaces

Le jeudi 19 mai, 16 h 30 à 20 h, devant la Bibliothèque. Apportez vos plantes et échangez-les pour des

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 6 juin

plantes de votre choix. Renseignez-vous aussi sur le jardinage et le compostage. Dépot et distribution de coupons à 16 h 30 (max. 6 coupons émis par variété) ; échange à 18 h (coupons seulement) et vente à 18 h 30. Info : 514 989-5226.

Flûte Alors! Bach'n Jazz

Le mercredi 25 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Le concert *Bach'n Jazz* propose un judicieux alliage entre plusieurs chefs-d'œuvre du grand maître Johann Sebastian Bach et des sélections jazz bien connues et tant aimées. En collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Gratuit. Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

Theatre Dramatis Personae

Les vendredi 27 mai et samedi 28 mai à 19 h 30, dimanche 29 mai à 14 h et 16 h 30, et lundi 30 mai à 20 h. *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* de Tom Stoppard et *Visit to a Small Planet* de Gore Vidal sous la direction de Christopher Moore. Info : 514 989-5226 ou theatrewestmount.com.



41^e journée familiale au parc Westmount

Le samedi 28 mai de 10 h à 16 h, Parc Westmount. Amusez-vous au parc avec vos voisins et amis lors de cette fête annuelle : courses, jeux gonflables, animaux, promenade aérienne, kiosques communautaires et plus. Info : 514 989-5353.

Art Westmount 2016 : appel aux artistes

Date limite pour s'inscrire : le mardi 31 mai. Les artistes et les auteurs de Westmount sont invités à participer à la 6^e édition du week-end Art Westmount, qui aura lieu les 1^{er} et 2 octobre 2016. Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Rappel : période d'interdiction de souffleuses à feuilles

Du 2 mai au 30 septembre, l'usage de souffleuses à feuilles est interdit à Westmount. Les agents de la Sécurité publique émettront une contravention pour toute infraction.

Couvre-feu dans les parcs municipaux

Entre minuit et 5 h, l'accès aux parcs publics est interdit. Les agents de la Sécurité publique émettront une contravention pour toute infraction.

CITY HALL

Parking: Pay-by-Plate system in effect

Parking in Westmount is now charged by vehicle license plate number instead of by parking space. Pay stations accept payment by coin, credit card or mobile application. Info: westmount.org/paybyplate.

LIBRARY

Dutch-Canadian Friendship Garden: Tulip Blooming Ceremony

Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m., Library Storytelling Garden. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Maria Noriega Rachwal

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m. Meet Maria Noriega Rachwal, author of *From Kitchen to Carnegie Hall*. Free tickets available at the Library. Info: 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's Finnegans Wake: The Boaters and Sifters of ALP

Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info: 514-989-5299.

2 O'Clock Lecture Series: Dr. Louis Touyz

Wednesday, May 25, 2 p.m. *South Africa Today: 26 Years Post-Apartheid*. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m. Sean Michaels' *Us Conductors*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

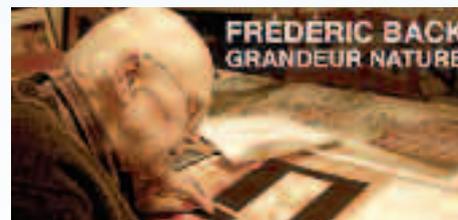
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Westmount Artisans' Festival 2016: call to artisans

Deadline to apply: Friday, May 13. Local artisans are invited to participate in the 2016 Festival, which will take place November 12 and 13 at Victoria Hall. Info: artisans@westmount.org, 514 989-5521 or westmount.org.

Montreal West-End Operatic Society

Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. MWOS presents Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. Tickets: mwos.org, 514 990-8813 and Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226.



Film: The Nature of Frédéric Back

Sunday, May 15, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. A visual artist and animation filmmaker, Back's work is immense and

Next Council Meeting Monday, June 6

his message irresistible. Directed by Phil Comeau. Screening presented in collaboration with the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*. Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

Perennial Plant Exchange

Thursday, May 19, 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Library Lawn. Exchange perennials from your garden for coupons to obtain other plants. Gardening and compost information also on site. Plant drop-off and voucher distribution from 4:30 p.m., exchange from 6 p.m., sale at 6:30 p.m. Info: 514 989-5226.

Flûte Alors! Bach'n Jazz

Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Victoria Hall. Montreal-based ensemble Flûte Alors! presents a concert combining J.S. Bach's masterpieces with jazz standards at Victoria Hall. In collaboration with the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*. Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

Theatre Dramatis Personae

Friday, May 27 and Sunday May 28 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 29 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Monday, May 30 at 8 p.m. *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* by Tom Stoppard and *Visit to a Small Planet* by Gore Vidal, directed by Christopher Moore. Info: 514 989-5226 and theatrewestmount.com.

41st Annual Family Day in Westmount Park

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westmount Park. Have fun in the park with neighbours and friends at this annual event, with races, inflatable games, petting zoo, zip line, community kiosks and more. Info: 514 989-5353.

Art Westmount 2016: call to artists

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, May 31. Westmount artists and authors are invited to participate in the 6th edition of Art Westmount on October 1st & 2nd. Please contact the Community Events office to obtain the participation form. Info: victoriahall@westmount.org or 514 989-5521.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Reminder: leaf blower ban period

From May 2 to September 30, the use of leaf blowers is prohibited in Westmount. Public Safety officers will issue fines for infractions.

Curfew in municipal parks

Between midnight and 5 a.m., access to public parks is forbidden. Public Safety officers will issue fines for infractions.



Szilasi closes out WHA's spring lecture series, speaks of photography



Left: Gabor Szilasi checks the settings and angles of a camera setup by his daughter Andrea. Right: Szilasi takes questions after his 90-minute presentation about his life's work documenting man's presence and influence on the environment around us.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Westmount Historical Association (WHA) presented Westmounter and well recognized documentary photographer Gabor Szilasi April 21 at Victoria Hall, in its lecture series on the work of visual artists with a Westmount connection.

With all seats taken and many standing,

Police Report

Contractor charged with assault

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 confrontation during the late morning of April 28 between a Westmount homeowner and a construction contractor over the quality of the work being done ended with police from Station 12 intervening and charges of armed assault being laid against the contractor.

"Around 11:15 in the morning, the contractor was told that the job he did wasn't good enough and the client wanted to have some extra work done to make sure it was done properly," said Station 12 community relations officers Stéphan Laperrière.

"The contractor did not agree," he added, "and he then began pushing the client with an object." Laperrière noted that the use of the object automatically escalated the charge to armed assault. "There were no major injuries, but the person was arrested and detained until police ar-

Szilasi amused the audience with a small sampling of his historically interesting, often quirky and frequently funny photographs. Showing a similarity to the humour of American photographer Elliott Erwitt and to the eccentricity of British photojournalist Martin Parr, Szilasi's chronicles of small town life in rural Quebec in the 70s capture an inexplicable and

whacky way of life, all shrouded in authenticity and honesty, including aspects somewhat lost in today's hectic day-to-day rollercoaster.

Szilasi grew up in Hungary and documented the 1956 Revolution with his Zorkij camera but was then compelled to flee the country, eventually settling in Canada in 1957.

He subsequently worked on many projects as a photographer and taught at Collège du Vieux Montréal and Concordia University. At 88 years old, he continues to be productive constantly pursuing new ideas and projects.

rived."

Although Laperrière said the incident took place on a street near Claremont Ave. in the northern part of Westmount, he declined to name the specific street since the complainant had sought assurances from the police there'd be no possibility of his being identified.

More seniors targeted

Online scam artists are becoming increasingly clever while trying to target Westmount's senior citizens, according to police at Station 12.

On April 25, staff at the Stanton St. precinct received a complaint from a woman residing in upper Westmount about a scheme involving a subscription she had taken out through her home computer with Apple's iTunes service.

"On her computer, she received a notice saying she had made some purchases through iTunes and if she wanted to cancel the bill she would have to go to a separate site to give information – which she did," said Laperrière.

"She then called Apple to find out if what

she did was okay, and they told her it's a fraud, that they don't do things that way. It was a case of false representation. They stole her personal information by luring her with false pretences. It involved a false web site with false web pages."

With this and other types of fraud in mind, Station 12 recently issued a press release reminding Westmounters that with tax season just ending, vigilance is called for to avoid falling for fraudulent activities by scammers claiming to be representatives of Revenu Québec or the Canada Revenue Agency.

According to the police, the scammers often use two similar approaches. They claim, either by phone or by email, to be working for these agencies. They also use phishing (fake websites or links to click on) to try and gain access to personal information, or request that amounts be paid via a fund transfer agency or by prepaid credit or debit card.

St. Catherine St. business broken into

The owner of a Westmount business consultancy office on St. Catherine St. near

Atwater Ave. that was broken into during the early morning hours of April 28 decided after learning the identity of the suspect not to proceed with charges.

Responding to an alarm from the office, officers from Station 12 who responded quickly noticed that a window was broken. Inspecting the crime scene, they found a piece of a prosthetic arm on the ground. "After doing their inspection they saw that nothing had been stolen," said Laperrière.

"They then noticed a person sitting across the street who was crying and who just happened to have a prosthetic arm with a piece that was missing. The owner of the office was then called, and he didn't want to press charges."

However, the individual the police spotted and who was regarded as the main suspect was found to have breached conditions of a court order decreeing he was not to be in the area of the office.

Although no charges were laid in conjunction with the break-in, the police proceeded to arrest him for disobeying the court order.

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Pets, their people star at Clanimal exhibition

BY HEATHER BLACK

A unique exhibition of photographic portraits and children's drawings was on at the McClure Gallery at the end of April. Sponsored by Clanimal.com, a local, online platform where Westmount animal lovers can post images or stories, as well as find a compatible dog breed through a match-making questionnaire, the exhibition celebrated the special bond between owners and their pets.

Organized by Clanimal's president Bernard Raymond and Christopher Baeninger of NewBase Media, the exhibition included 25 interesting and, at times, humorous portraits of individuals with their pets by Montreal photographer Sergio Veranes of Starphotostudios.

Colourful drawings created by children at a special Visual Arts Centre workshop,

WMA's AGM to discuss 'Our Westmount Today'

The annual general meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) will be foregoing a speaker this year in favour of an "open exchange," co-president Maureen Kiely told the city council meeting May 2. The event takes place Wednesday, May 18 at 7 pm in Victoria Hall.

She invited all to attend, saying the evening would be an open forum. "We hope to get a lively exchange going on "Our Westmount Today," she said. Those attending would be invited to participate by saying what they appreciate about Westmount and what improvements they would like to see.

Lily Lam, the WMA's volunteer of the year, will be honoured during the event (see story May 3, p. 8). — LS

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were also on display. The exhibition continued until May 1 at the McClure Gallery on Victoria Ave.



Clanimal's president Bernard Raymond and his Great Dane (Deutsche dogge), Virus, with photographer Sergio Veranes of Starphotostudios. Inset: Westmounter Maria Foncerrada with her exhibited drawing

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Westmount Municipal Association's AGM, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Lily Lam is to be presented with the Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award. (See story "WMA names Lily Lam as its volunteer of the year," May 3, p. 8.)

THURSDAY, MAY 12

City information meeting on the reconstruction of Westmount Ave. (Belmont to Victoria) for area residents, 6:30 pm at the WRC multi-purpose room.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

City of Westmount's perennial plant exchange and sale outside the conservatory, open to all 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Drop-off of plants, 4:30 to 6 pm; special opening time for contributors starts at 6 pm (see story p. 7).

The annual general meeting of the Westmount Historical Association, 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library.

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Much loved Folklore to close after 40 years

Retail Watch

VERONICA REDGRAVE



An iconic retailer in Westmount is closing its doors. Folklore, established by Gail and Gerard Fellerath 40 years ago, will be no more as of July 31.

The couple originally wanted to open a “kitchen store,” recounted Gail. However, when they noticed the high prices of the items they wished to carry, they adroitly shifted gears. The rest is history.

Their much-loved shop has been in Westmount at three different locations, moving from a little shop “downstairs for \$350 a month,” recalled Gail, to their current Sherbrooke St. address 24 years ago. But even though the doors are closing, clients – “literally generations of them” – can still visit over the next few months to find treasures at a bargain.

Post Peace Corps

Both Gail and Gerard Fellerath were formerly in the Peace Corps, and spoke Spanish on their early trips to Mexico and South America. That turned out to be a great help in scouting special pieces such as ceremonial dance masks, now offered at \$100, which “are collectibles,” explained Gerard.

The shop is holding different discounted specials each week. (Turquoise was 20 percent off the day I went in.) Renowned for Mexican merchandise, the boutique is a welcome respite from the “sameness” seen in fashion stores everywhere. One-of-a-kind fabrics are hand-woven in Mexico, South America and India. The shop is full of colour: pretty trays of all sizes, jewel-bright Thai silks, Indian door hangings complete with twinkling little mirror

pieces and fabulous Mexican animal sculptures.

The pre-Columbian reproductions are “excellent,” Gerard explained. There is also a range of sterling silver “from \$3.50 to \$350,” as well as classic French go-to-market baskets and large clay pots. There are earrings for every look and age: studs and dangling.

The Australian aboriginal art is exceptional. I learned that the dots and motifs signify places. And then there are the wonderfully whimsical clay pieces (\$1!), one showing a native Mexican vegetable seller in a boat, harking back to when Mexico City was actually a lake, and floating rafts grew crops.

Variety of goods

Bird whistles from Peru are not only realistic but fun. Gorgeous tablecloths from India are original; each has a different pattern, block printed or screened.

Comfort can be found on hot summer nights with women’s white nightgowns in 100 percent cotton.

Today, the Fellerath’s children, Sara and Kate, have their own careers, although both “grew up in the store,” said Gail.

The blue-chip stretch of Sherbrooke St. will sorely miss this emporium of escapism, the magnet of this “petit musée” offering a sense of other worlds, the unusual and the beautiful, the exotic and the elegant, but above all, the warm welcome of this peripatetic couple whose shop offered new textures – both psychologically and physically.

Blue box out too early

A resident of de Casson, who put out her blue box too early Tuesday, April 26, was asked to wait until 8 pm, Public Security officials said. The bin was spotted at 4:30 pm.



Gail and Gerard Fellerath in their store April 30.

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368 Redfern Ave. started with the

History by
the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The lead source for the information in this column is deeds of sale, including the names of the owners and their professions or livelihoods. The deeds, especially older ones, rarely state the profession of women.

We often hear about farmers, speculators and developers purchasing land from the many religious orders in Montreal during the 19th century, but in fact there were some exchanges going the other way, as well.

It appears the Community of the Sisters of Charity of the General Hospital of

Montreal – the “Grey Nuns” order started by Marguerite d’Youville who founded a hospital in Old Montreal – was in the midst of an expansion stage in the middle of the 19th century, and this included reaching out to the growing English population, which was starting to look outside the walled city of Montreal.

The nuns purchased a strip of land – Lot 277 – owned by Benjamin Décarie, one of Montreal’s original farmers, in 1857, and the next year picked up the strip just to the east of it, where Clarke Ave. is now located, in a sheriff’s sale. In 1901, a small part of that holding was sold off for construction of Église St. Léon and – eventually – the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord and École St. Léon, and in 1911 they sold off the Hurtubise farmland for development, including the formation of Kitchener and Redfern avenues.

The land was purchased by “His Honor Robert Stanley Weir, Recorder of the City of Montreal, Moses Henry Day, manager, and John Pattysen Black, gentleman.” (A “recorder” was a judge with special powers – we would suggest something more than a city clerk; Weir was perhaps best known as the author of the English words to “O



368 Redfern Ave. photographed May 4.

Canada.”) It appears the street, which was planned, had the name of Oxford Ave., and another reference has it as Cambridge Ave.

After paying 60 cents per square foot for the property, they sold off portions to various buyers, with Lots 113, 114 and 115, each with a 25-foot width, to Trefflé Char-

pentier, a contractor, who decided that instead of building three houses on the property, he would build only one large, detached home just south of Sherbrooke St.

The street became Redfern Ave., an extension of a street that had opened below Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd.) in 1907.

Charpentier apparently completed the large house by 1913 and sold it to an engineer named Fritz Cirkel, a pioneer in the study of asbestos, mica and graphite. Cirkel paid \$12,000 for the house and moved in with his wife, Louise Leduc Falardeau, and Charles Falardeau (according to *Lovell’s*); when Cirkel died a year later, the two were named as executors. She got into a fight with unidentified “héritiers” of Cirkel’s estate, and the sheriff of Montreal was forced to seize the property, which she then bought back and stayed there until her death in 1946.

That squabble was not the last to confront the *continued on p. 23*

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grey nuns, has had many medical owners

house. Falardeau left the house to her cousin, Blanche Gagnon, and a nephew, Frederick W. Jansen, along with two homes on Grand Blvd. in NDG. Another court judgement was required to settle the ownership of the three properties; apparently with some cash changing hands, Jansen took over the Redfern property and promptly sold it to Ralph Barclay, a well-known speculator in Westmount houses, who apparently rented it out for the next decade, most of that time to James T. Quinlan.

Barclay sold to Dr. Maurice Berne in 1956 for \$26,000. The laryngologist lived there peacefully for more than 20 years before selling to Jason Marcovitz in 1979 for \$140,000.

In 1980, the property changed hands to Marcovitz' company, Mandib Ltée., at about the same time that he was divorcing his wife, Stephanie Bruker. A court agreement allowed Bruker to remain in the house with her children until it could be sold, which took place in July 1981, but only after Marcovitz bought back the property from his company (for \$1).

The next buyer of 368 Redfern was a company named Catco, Inc., which at the signing was represented by Solomon Windheim, its vice president and assistant secretary. Apparently he moved into the house. Two years later, the house was sold to Miriam Orner, widow of Joseph Wind-

heim and mother of Solomon, following a huge family fight over the proceeds of Joseph's company, Les Promotions Taillon Inc., which looked after properties in Canada, the US and Martinique. That case was appealed to the Supreme Court as well, but rejected at that level.

It might be said that family struggles calmed down once Harvey Sheffren, owner of Sheffren Hides & Skins Ltd., an import-export company, purchased it in 1987 for \$350,000. The mahogany-clad house had been totally renovated and included a basement apartment.

After five years he sold to Dr. Donald Doell, who worked at the Hillside Medical

Centre, and his wife, Vijoleta Juras, this time for \$420,000.

The final buyers, in 2002, were Donatella Tampieri, MD, and Allen E. Nutik. She is professor of radiology, neurology and neurosurgery at McGill University and head of the department of diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He is well-known to Westmounters as a one-time

mayoral candidate (in 1983) and as a council candidate, a key figure in the municipal Taxe\$Action protest movement of the 1980s, founder of the Special Committee for Canadian Unity and Affiliation Quebec, and one-time owner of Dial Security and of a local power equipment supply company. They paid \$901,000; the latest municipal evaluation (2014) is \$2,256,800.

History of 368 Redfern Ave. (since construction)

| Date | Buyer | Price |
|---------------|--|-----------|
| Oct. 30, 1913 | Fritz Cirkel | \$12,000 |
| May 29, 1947 | Ralph W. Barclay | \$1 |
| Nov. 12, 1956 | Dr. Maurice Berne | \$26,000 |
| June 1, 1979 | Jason Marcovitz | \$140,000 |
| Jul. 29, 1981 | Catco, Inc. (represented by Solomon Windheim) | \$262,119 |
| May 25, 1983 | M. Orner, widow of Joseph Windheim | \$260,000 |
| Aug. 31, 1987 | H. Sheffren | \$350,000 |
| Dec. 18, 1992 | Dr. D. Doell & V. Juras | \$420,000 |
| Dec. 13, 2002 | Dr. D. Tampieri & Allen E. Nutik | \$901,000 |

And it's gone



The site on Lexington seen around 1 pm on May 3 was a lawn without the tree, still standing April 30, previously had a note taped to it saying "Do not cut down this tree." (See story "Spring trees, some down, some remain," May 3, p. 22).

Photo: WI



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AVIS PUBLIC VENTE À L'ENCAN

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que, conformément à l'article 461 de la *Loi sur les cités et villes* (RLRQ, c. C-19), une vente à l'encan de bicyclettes non réclamées aura lieu le **samedi 28 mai 2016 à 9 h** (visite préalable à 8 h 30) devant l'école Westmount Park (terrain de jeu du Parc Westmount) située au 15, Park Place ou, en cas de pluie, au Centre des loisirs de Westmount situé au 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter la liste des bicyclettes devant faire l'objet de la vente à l'encan sur le site web de la Ville à www.westmount.org ou au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Tout bien acheté lors de la vente devra être payé immédiatement en argent comptant et est assujéti aux taxes applicables (T.P.S. de 5% et T.V.Q. de 9.975%). L'acheteur doit prendre possession du bien immédiatement. Les biens sont vendus dans leur état actuel et tels que vus. La Ville n'offre aucune garantie envers l'acheteur : ce dernier le fait à ses risques.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 10 mai 2016.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 461 of the *Cities and Towns Act* (CQLR, c. C-19), a public auction of unclaimed bicycles will be held on **Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** (viewing at 8:30 a.m.) in front of Westmount Park School (Westmount Park playing field) located at 15 Park Place or, in the case of rain, at the Westmount Recreation Centre located at 4675 Saint-Catherine Street West.

Interested buyers may consult the list of bicycles to be auctioned on the City's website at www.westmount.org, or at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All items purchased at the auction must be immediately paid for in cash and are subject to all applicable taxes (G.S.T. of 5% and Q.S.T. of 9.975%). The buyer must immediately take possession of the item. The items are sold in their current state, as is. The City will not provide any warranty to the buyer: the latter purchases at his or her own risk.

GIVEN at Westmount, this May 10, 2016.

Nicole Dobbie
Greffière adjointe de la ville / Assistant City Clerk

www.westmount.org

Rovers gather at gallery pre-Nepal trip



Serenaded by guitarist musician Lyndon Davies in *The Gallery* at Victoria Hall on April 15 was the group going to Nepal, including from left: Virginia Elliott, Ryan Marcoux, Sabrina Manolakos, Anthony van Voorst, Douglas Leahey, Alex Manolakos, Erin McRae, Katherine Richard, Parker English and Amber Neill-Hastings.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Two Scouting leaders from Westmount are escorting a group of Montreal-area Rovers who are departing for Nepal on Friday, May 20 to help with reconstruction efforts following a devastating earthquake last year in that south Asian country.

On April 15, a gathering of participants, corporate sponsors, representatives of the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation and others was held in *The Gallery* at Victoria Hall, where various aspects of the expedition were explained.

Lyndon Davies, a musician from Vancouver, flew in for the occasion to perform a song he composed about the Scouting movement. He dedicated it to the Rovers going to Nepal.

The trip was conceived by Scouting leaders and Westmounters Douglas Leahey and Virginia Elliott, who works in Westmount's Community Events department.

Parked car leaks fluid

The owner of a parked car found leaking fluid on Somerville May 1 could not be contacted, Public Security officials said. Efforts included going to the home. Officers called Public Works to spread an absorbent on the street to soak up the fluid. The leak was reported at 7:36 pm.

(See "Rovers' Nepal project to help rebuild after earthquake," March 8, p. 4.)

In all, the group will consist of seven Rovers and two leaders. "Our itinerary is to fly out May 20 to Kathmandu," Leahey told the *Independent*.

"We will spend a couple of days there meeting with local Scouts. In coordination with the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, we will fly to Lukla and then hike to Namche to repair the grounds of the Khunde Hospital, then participate in its 50th anniversary celebrations on May 28th.

"From there, we will head up to do reforestation in Sagarmatha National Park, followed by more grounds reconstruction around the historic Tangbouche monastery and finally back out to Kathmandu with our return to Montreal on June 25," Leahey said.

According to him, fundraising for the trip was done in a number of ways, including bagging groceries in supermar-

kets, hosting spaghetti dinners, a comedy evening and bowling nights.

As part of its fundraising, the group has also been selling souvenir stuffed mascots of the mythical creature known as the yeti, which is said to inhabit the mountains of Nepal.

The mission is called "Project Yeti Nepal 2016."

Alarm traced to pool house

A complaint from a resident of Oakland about a non-stop beeping sound April 15 was traced to a property on Surrey Gardens, according to public safety officers. It was described as coming from a water-level alarm in an open pool house. When no danger was determined to exist, the door was closed.

RMR parades to church

Public Security officials said patrollers blocked off streets Sunday morning, April 24 as the annual church parade of the Royal Montreal Regiment took place between the armoury on St. Catherine St. and St. Matthias' Church on Côte St. Antoine at Church Hill. No incidents were reported.

Baby pigeons transported

Public safety officers took two baby pigeons to the SPCA from the apartment building at 4998 de Maisonneuve April 26, Public Security officials said. Described as too young to fly, they had been found on a balcony.

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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Health

CANADA BENEFIT GROUP – Do you or someone you know suffer from a disability? Get up to \$40,000 from the Canadian Government. Toll-free 1-888-511-2250 or www.canadabenefit.ca/free-assessment.

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Shiny soirée shows beautiful bling



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE



From left, top row: Sophie Langlois, Caroline Savic, Vivianne Ivanier, Michèle Plourde and Éleine Lalonde; bottom row: Lolitta Dandoy, Danielle Champagne, Anna Mendel, Lucie Bouthillette, Marie Côté and Maryse Matta.

Photos courtesy of MMFA

Just before the nighttime snow swamped the city on March 17, chicly-clad ladies (and men) made their way to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA). There Bijoux=Art featured jewellery by artists from 11 countries. Not your usual pearl or diamond classics, the pieces were truly works of art. Massive wide cuffs, necklaces created with lighter-than-light filaments of metal and über-sized brooches were displayed for sale. (Note to ladies: Click “refresh” on your accessory wardrobes!)

Hard-working committee members were **Anna Mendel** (guest of honour), whose initiative launched the idea, **Lucie**



Pnina and Maurice Pinchevsky flank Barbara Silverberg.

Bouthillette (event president), the MMFA's **Danielle Champagne** (director of the MMFA Foundation) and **Diane Charbonneau** (modern and contemporary decorative arts), along with **Michèle Plourde** and **Caroline Savic** (co-presidents of the volunteers' association), **Éleine Lalonde**, **Lolitta Dandoy**, **Marie Côté**, **Maryse Matta**, **Sophie Langlois**, **Vivianne Ivanier**, **Éleine Lalonde**, **Johanne Champoux**, **Stéphane Le Duc** and local res **Julia Reitman** and **Barbara Silverberg**, who curated the show with **Noël Guy-**

omarc'h.

Artistic director was Quebec actor **Pascale Bussières**. Jewellery was presented on garments designed by **Denis Gagnon**, and styled by **Azamit**. The models all wore white – the better to show the unique pieces – on a white runway. Speaking of creativity, **Dick Walsh**, mastermind behind the décor of the 2016 McCord and Red Cross galas, was noted, in town from New York.

Also seen in the sold-out crowd were Westmounters sisters **Lisa** and **Emma Reitman** with dad **Stephen** and their elegant grandmother **Ilsa Hatam**, **Jennifer Campbell**, **Pnina** and **Maurice Pinchevsky**, **Ann-Marie Hart** and daughter **Stephanie**, **Tania Dupont** and **Claire Webster**, as well as Israel's consul general for Quebec **Ziv Nevo Kulman**, and consul director of cultural affairs, **Jonathan Burnham**, **Martin Thibodeau** (president, Quebec, RBC), **Phyllis**

and **John Rae** (executive vp, Power Corp), **Claude Provencher** (associate architect, Provencher Roy), **Anne-Marie Laoun** (president, Georges Laoun Opticien) and **Barbara Sabbath**.

Although the town was draped in green for St. Patrick's Day, amidst the sea of black only one fashionista wore the emerald of Eire. **Hing Phlong's** green dress was paired with a Prada bag and sparkly gold stiletto sandals. The cocktail *continued on p. 26*

Flat Feet?

In my practice, one of the most common reasons for consulting is flat feet. Being flat footed (or hyperpronated) is a medical condition that affects lots of people, and that can bring it's share of problems such as arch and heel pain.

Flat feet are also very common with children. Although we don't have to automatically correct the condition, when corrected early enough with orthotics, kids feet can grow in the proper position. This sometimes corrects the condition permanently.

Did you know?

Flattening of the feet can occur with pregnancies, giving feet the illusion of appearing longer.

True or False?

To remove a wart, the doctor has to remove its root... Get the answer in June's article!

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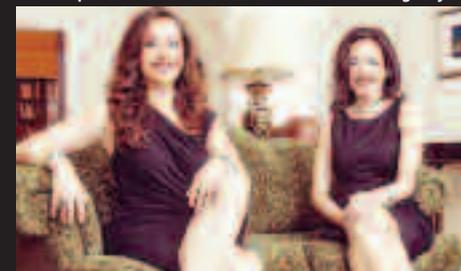


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St. George's G Major wins nationals – for third time



St. George's School's Glee Club, G Major, won first place April, 16 at the Show Choir Canada Nationals competition for the third straight year. It took place in Toronto this year. It was also named the competition's 2016 grand champion. Performances can be seen May 18 to 21, including G Major's four shows at the D.B. Clarke Theatre on the Concordia University campus. "This spirited and crazy-talented group of teenagers bring an inspiring story of the fruits of hard work and determination as well as the beauty and energy of their musical performance," wrote Scott Cross, the school's director of communications, in an email to the Independent.

Photo courtesy of St. George's

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 25

the MMFA's Galerie de Bronze, where guests sipped sparkling wine and munched on 'les petits bijoux gastronomiques' created by the Queen E collaborating with Sébastien Forand Events.

Nibbles of lobster, tuna and beef disappeared quickly as did the fabulous *foie gras*. Bijoux=Art was then open to the public for free over the weekend. The \$50,000 proceeds are to support the purchase of a new piece for the MMFA, "Peony, the Knot of Shame" in blown glass by Jean-Michel Othoniel.



From left: Lisa, Julia and Emma Reitman, and Ilsa Hatam



Ann-Marie, left, and Stephanie Hart.

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OPEN HOUSE MAY 15, 2-4



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334 Av. Grosvenor \$1,435,000
Detached, Designer ready, 3+1 Bdr. Not to be missed in Victoria Village. MLS 23883902



WESTMOUNT ADJ.

4097 Highland \$1,295,000
Cape cod style home in a country setting!! Lovely 4+1 bdr with garden & garage close to Mount Royal Park. MLS: 20827283



WESTMOUNT

89 Holton \$1,475,000
Lovely renovated 3 Bdr townhouse on the flats, gourmet kitchen, garden, parking (2) +++ Exclusive. MLS: 18992051



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Le 215 Redfern Apt 303 \$995,000
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OLD- MONTREAL

81 Rue De Brésolles Apt 309 \$589,000
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NDG

Harvard Ave UPPER \$435,000
Magnificent 3 Bdr renovated UPPER with open concept. MLS 15497577



NUNS ISLAND

80 Berlioz \$365,000
Beautiful 2 Bdr ground level condo overlooking river, manicured ground & pool. MLS 27694605



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MOUNT-ROYAL

240 Ch. Bates #311 \$335,000
Unique & very original!! Open concept condo with 1 closed bedroom, lots of storage, private balcony, garage +++ MLS 25373430



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4805A Victoria Ave. \$299,000
Perfect pied à terre, 850 SF, close to hospital and universities. Ideal for student!! MLS 10944720



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141 Ch. des Eaux Vives \$1,495,000
First time on the market!! Bording Rouge River is this magnificent residence on double lot with salt water pool. A fabulous opportunity! MLS: 12487899



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48 Ch. De Lavigne \$2,850,000
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SOLD

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SOLD

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SOLD

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455 Rue St-Pierre, Apt 370 \$449,000
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SOLD

OLD MONTREAL

81 Brésolles Apt 508 \$765,000
WOOH!! Unique 1200 SF condo (1 Bdr) with very large and private terrace + garage +++ MLS: 19809863



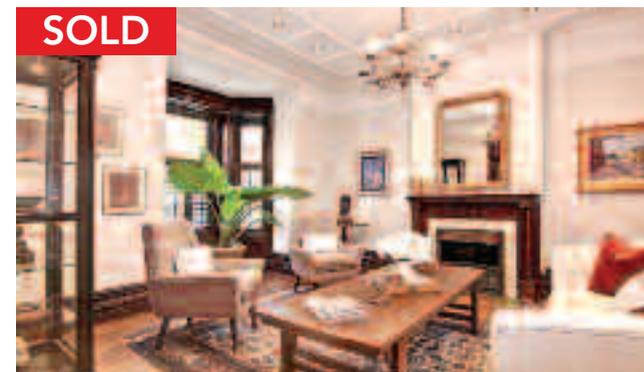
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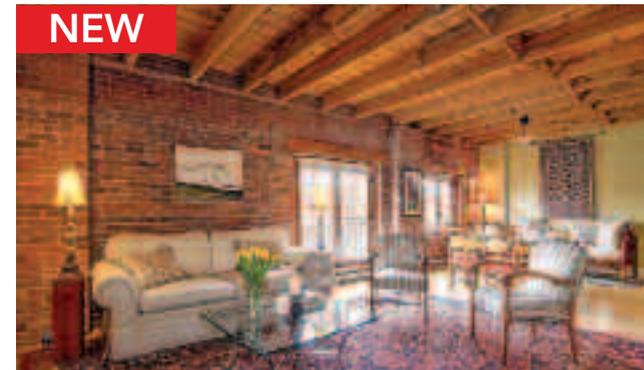
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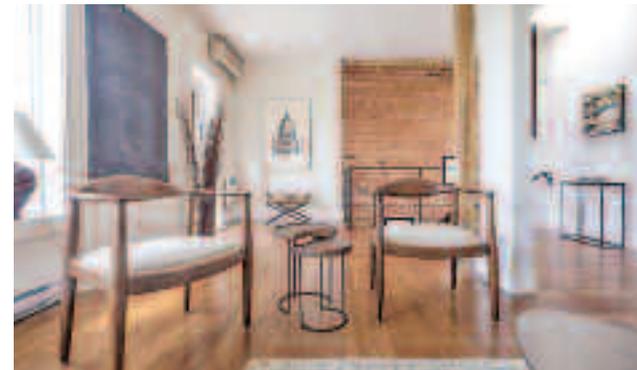
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