

## School district realigned within Westmount

# City waiting to learn about plans for St. Léon expansion

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Details of plans to expand École St. Léon by five new classrooms and a gym are still unknown to the city, the *Independent* learned last week.

A press release issued September 5 by the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) announced the project at a cost of \$11.5 million, funding that had been a major hurdle in alleviating overcrowding of Westmount's only French-language ele-

mentary school.

"We're happy they now have the money, but nothing is going to happen until they start giving us plans," said District 6 councillor Nicole Forbes, who has been acting as the city council's liaison with the school commission.

"The project still has to go through the city's Planning Advisory Committee as part of the permit approval process," she pointed out.

In the meantime, how-  
ever, Forbes said the

continued on p. 11

## Feeding gardens before winter



On a beautiful but crisp morning, September 30, at the Public Works Yard, Celia Lang loads up her car with compost, provided by the city for residents, for her garden. See p. 15. Photo: Ralph Thompson

## November 5 municipal election – mayoral race down to 3

# Polymenakos, Fourniotis now targetting councillorships, Peart to go in #4

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Now there are three candidates for mayor. Last week, Kirk Polymenakos withdrew in favour of running for the District 1 councillor seat. He was followed two days later by George Fourniotis, who will seek the seat in District 6.

Both declared their decisions to the *Independent* after Councillor Patrick Martin announced his entry into the mayoral race (see story September 26, p. 1). See p. 6 and 7 for their reasons.

Martin is left running against interim mayor Christina Smith and Beryl Wajzman.

Architect Conrad Peart of Victoria Ave. also announced his candidacy, saying he would be running in District 4 against incumbent Rosalind Davis. He planned to register officially October 4 (see story p. 6).

### Other news

Marie-Antoinette Novy, who earlier announced she intended to run in District 5, said last week she was now uncertain.



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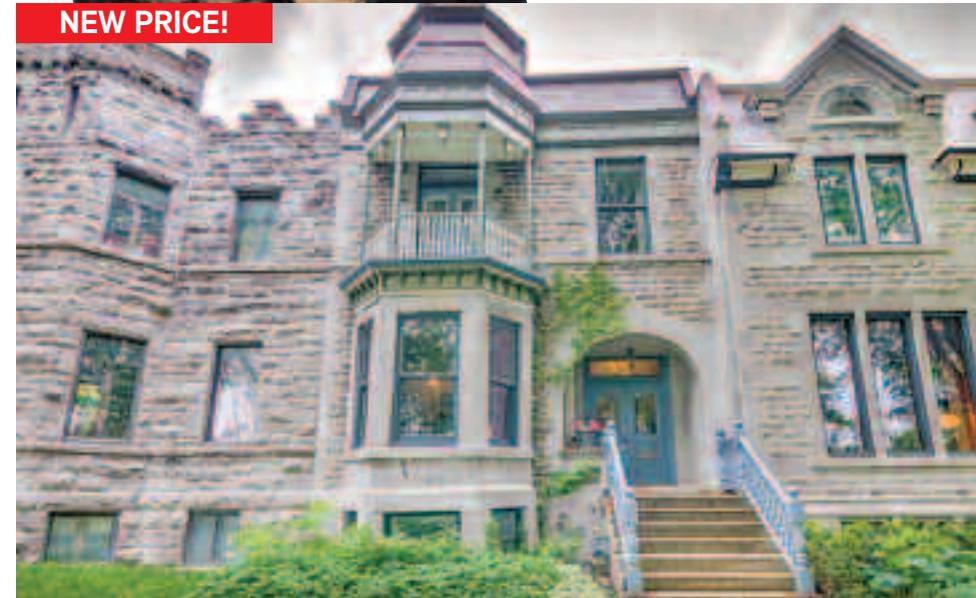


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Ville-Marie - 3940 Ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges - C51 \$478,000 or B92 \$2,186,730

## New findings to cut time, cost

# Conservatory now ok'd for restoration rather than 'rebuild'

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A new assessment obtained by the city now indicates the foundations and steel structure of the historic conservatory are strong enough to make restoration possible, according to city officials.

While restoration had been the initial goal when the conservatory, its annex and production greenhouses were closed three years ago for safety reasons, previous findings from a drone inspection suggested a complete rebuild would likely be required.

"The good news is that we are able to renovate the structure," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

"I'm enormously pleased," Lulham said

in announcing the latest findings to the *Independent* after a presentation September 18 to the general committee of council by Arup, an international firm specializing in design, planning, engineering and greenhouse restoration.

Mayor Christina Smith said the latest approach would cost less and be faster than a more extensive rebuild though exact amounts have not yet been worked out.

The assessment by Arup found the existing structure's foundations and steel structure were intact except in some minor areas, "which simplifies a lot," explained city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

It's only the glass panes and frames of cypress wood holding them in place that have rotted and need to be replaced, he

said. The recommended replacement wood is a long-lasting Accoya wood, he said. The aim is to use laminated glass, a type of heavy, shatterproof glass.

By recuperating the structure, the city will be able to use a traditional approach to the work rather than going to design-build as had been previously proposed.

Hurtubise said the initial drone assessment of the complex in March 2016 to determine its condition from a safety aspect

was "complementary" to the assessment mandate given to Arup. The aerial inspection formed part of a report by MBA Architects that proposed several options (see story August 16, 2016, p. 1).

As a result, he said, "When we mandated Arup, we already knew the wood was finished."

Arup, he said, has recently restored a similar but larger greenhouse in New York built *continued on p. 15*



Through windows looking at the frog pond annex, one can see beyond into the main conservatory, where only a few plants remained September 29.

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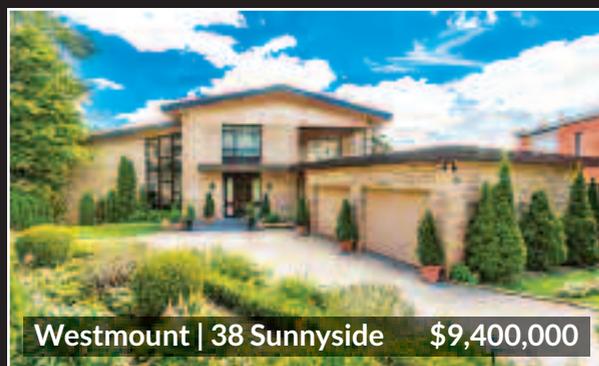


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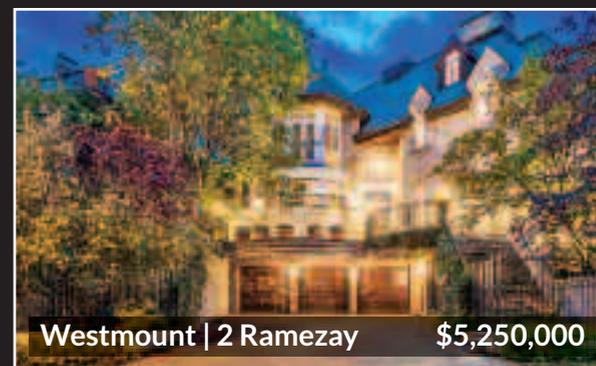


Westmount | 38 Sunnyside \$9,400,000

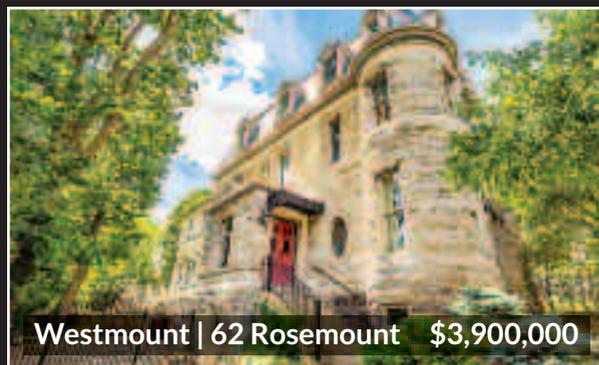


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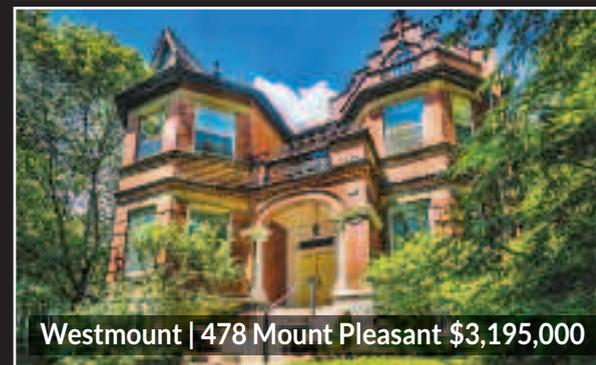
Westmount | 2 Ramezay \$5,250,000



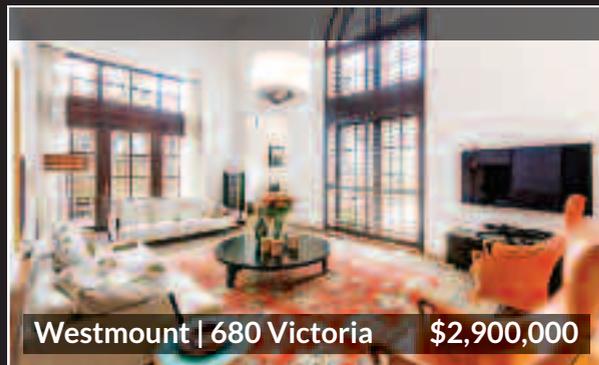
Westmount | 62 Rosemount \$3,900,000



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Westmount | 478 Mount Pleasant \$3,195,000



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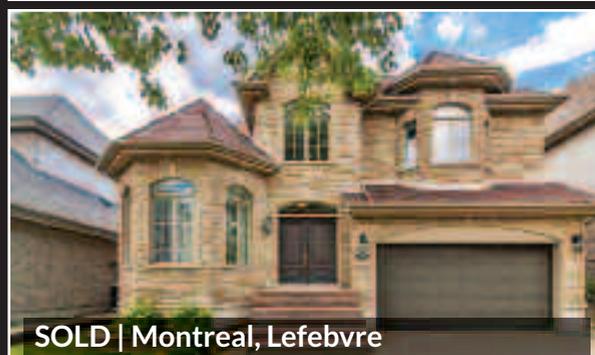
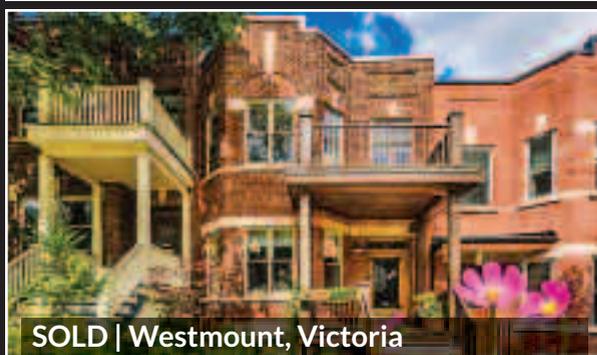
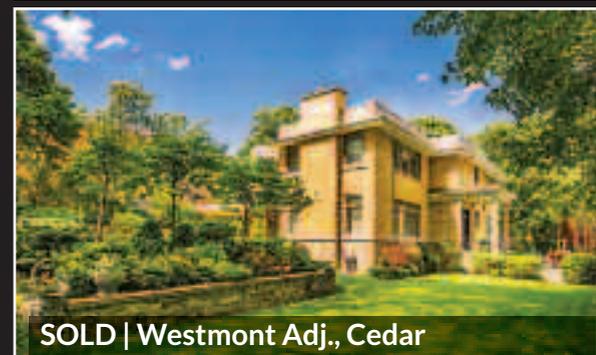
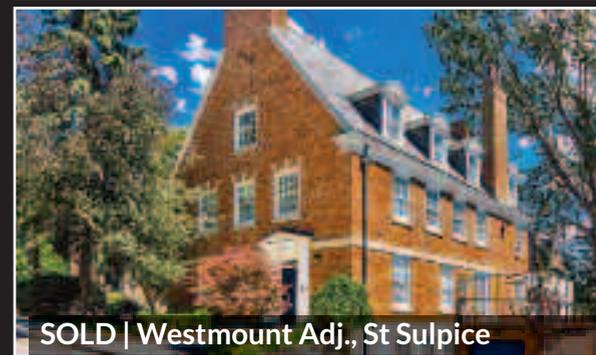
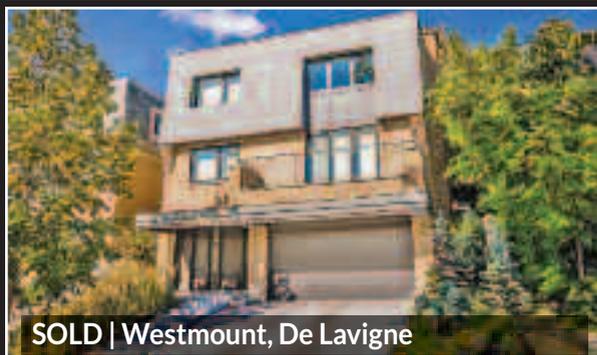
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## RECENT AND NOTEWORTHY SALES



# Peart provides fresh perspective as a newcomer, campaigns on 'evolution'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY



Conrad Peart outside his home September 29.

Architect Conrad Peart joined the Westmount election race to run in his home District 4 last week, saying he believes he has a unique view of the community and its needs.

"I'm a newcomer," he explains. "I will offer a fresh and diverse perspective to an already strong community with deep roots: a balance between change and stability. A theme of evolution rather than revolution will be core to my potential impact."

Peart and his wife, Claudia Perrotte, bought a row house on Victoria Ave. a little over a year ago, at which time he "committed himself to full immersion" in the community and began attending council meetings and learning about the issues and concerns of residents.

"The city is doing well, but it could do better still," Peart said. "As I speak with my neighbours, many share their frustration at a perceived lack of transparency and communication, not to mention a desire for improved efficiency with the planning department."

As a result, he said in announcing his candidacy to the *Independent* last week, his objectives in seeking election are "to improve transparency and communication, the efficiency of the planning department and implement metrics to assist in accountability."

He said he was well aware he would be campaigning against Councillor Rosalind Davis, but explained "I think it's important to challenge the incumbent."

## District 4 is 'home'

As well, he added, "District 4 is where we live, what I have come to know intuitively and where we feel at home."

Interestingly, Peart is now the fifth council candidate in the campaign who lives in District 4, but is the only one other than Davis to run in the district.

Peart lists among the attributes he can bring to the council table: his entrepreneurial and management experience as the co-founder and principal architect of the firm of Fabriq, his listening ability and an understanding of what it takes to represent people.

"I intend to present a steady balance of change and stability: smart where nimbleness, responsiveness, iteration and data-driven can work to engender change; stewardship, where respect and responsible conservation can maintain the wonderful heritage of the city."

Before moving to Westmount, Peart served for five years as a member of the board of a 90-unit "signature" condo building, where he lived in Old Montreal. It was experience through which "you realize your role is to represent constituents who are not always aligned to your own views but with the views of the majority."

In getting to know the city, Peart said he had been "a little surprised" to find a city

such as Westmount to be so "antiquated" when it came to its Urban Planning department. Through his profession, he said, "I've dealt with permit offices around North America and almost all were fully electronic."

"Everything we produce at work from beginning to end is digitalized. If it isn't it goes into a black hole" and becomes difficult to track.

While his firm works in a range of projects, he describes the Department of National Defence as its "largest" client in sales and volume, including armouries and other military establishments.

.....  
continued on p. 7

## Polymenakos explains switch from mayor to District 1

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a statement issued September 26, Kirk Polymenakos of Claremont said he had announced his intention to run for mayor three weeks earlier feeling there had been "a relevant void at the top."

He explained that having been an active resident attending many city council meetings for years, he had come to learn the issues that concerned residents (see story September 12, p. 1).

Now, he said, "Since Patrick Martin announced last week he will be running for mayor, I decided that I would not take votes away from him and Christina Smith. After much consideration following consultation from friends and residents alike, I have decided to run for

councillor in District 1."

This seat is being vacated by Martin but is also sought by Anitra Bostock. (See story September 26, p. 8.)

Polymenakos said he had chosen District 1 - adjacent to District 2, where he lives and now represented by Councillor Philip Cutler - because he feels "it is synonymous with the distinction that is Westmount."

He also said Cutler had been "effective in implementing the vision the current council had taken." Cutler, so far, has been unopposed.

"If elected, I will cooperate with the mayor and will do my utmost to continue in my efforts to keep Westmount in the high esteem we hold against any other municipality."

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# Fourniotis makes move from mayoralty to District 6 rep.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a press release dated September 28, George Fourniotis announced he was stepping out of the mayoral race to run as District 6 councillor.

He said his decision came after a meeting with mayoral candidate Patrick Martin in which he “realized” they were focusing on the same issues.

“In deference to [Martin’s] 12 years of experience on council and in order not to split the vote on the same issues, I decided the wisest move would be for me to step out of the race for mayor and run for council.”

A longtime resident of Westmount,

Fourniotis lives on Greene, which is in District 8, “in the vicinity” of 6, he states. “Over the next four weeks I will familiarize myself with the issues specific to the district [6] and prepare measures I will take to meet those issues when elected councillor.”

He said he will also continue his focus on issues that are common to all districts, such as home and business owner issues, building permits, tenant issues and rights, city maintenance and the visual look of the city (see story September 19, p. 1).

Mary Gallery and Joanne Wallace are also running in District 6.

It was vacated by Nicole Forbes.

# Demo hearing for 1\* heritage-rated house 80 Sunnyside gets okay to convert window

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing September 18 on converting a window into a door at the back of a 1\* heritage house received quick approval from city council in its role of demolition committee.

News of the favourable decision regarding 80 Sunnyside came the next day from Mayor Christina Smith. It generated little surprise given the demolition hearing was essentially a formality required under the city’s architectural guidelines to preserve the integrity of the top-rated heritage build-

ings.

She said the demolition committee had listened to a presentation by the architects and agreed with the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee.

The owner of the stately grey stone house just east of Lexington had requested turning the window into a door in order to create an access to the garden and a pool (see story September 5, p. 3).

The residence is known as the “W.G. McConnell House” after its original owner Wilson Griffith McConnell.

## Peart cont’d. from p. 6

Born in Montreal, Peart said he is “forever a city dweller.” He grew up in Ottawa, earned degrees in physiology (1987) and architecture (1995) from McGill and likes to travel to cities around the world rather

than resorts.

His younger brothers, Dexter and Byron, opened the flagship branch of WANT Apothecary at Sherbrooke and Claremont in 2011, he said.

An avid marathon runner, Peart is currently training for the Toronto Marathon scheduled to take place October 22.

He said Westmount has provided his wife and himself “with the perfect balance

of urban density, proximity to services, wonderful nature, community, heritage and wonderful facilities. We’re putting down roots, and we know that we are here to stay.”

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## BUREAUX MUNICIPAUX FERMÉS

### Le lundi 9 octobre 2017 : Action de grâce

Les bureaux administratifs de la Westmount, dont l’Hôtel de Ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le lundi 9 octobre en raison de la fête de l’Action de grâce. La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche et le lundi.

Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d’ordures s’effectueront selon l’horaire normal.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED

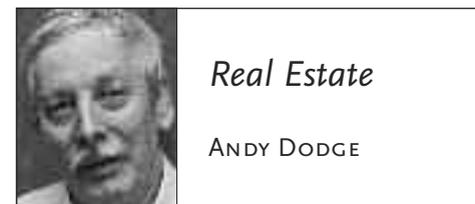
### Monday, October 9, 2017: Thanksgiving Day

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be closed Monday, October 9 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Westmount Public Library will be closed Sunday and Monday.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

## History by the house

## ‘Villa Mona’ mansion, now demolished, replaced by 12 Rosemount



Real Estate

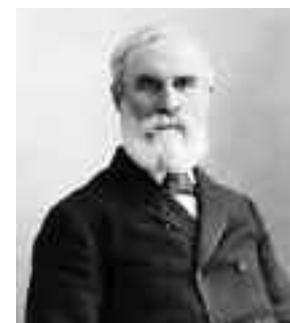
ANDY DODGE

The huge semi-detached house built in 1964 on Rosemount Ave. just above Sherbrooke St. may not be one of the more venerable mansions in Westmount, but its recent presence, squeezed in beside the huge 10 Rosemount apartment building, belies a long history with some of Westmount's most prominent names.

In the 1840s, when citizens of Montreal were just beginning to think about settling outside the city proper, Côte St. Antoine Rd. was the main east-west route toward Lachine. John Young, a businessman in his 30s, who was developing a strong interest in Montreal's transportation potential, looked up the hill from the roadway and decided to build a huge stone mansion with a long winding driveway, which he called "RoseMount." From there, he could watch the development of the Victoria bridge and the flourishing of Montreal harbour, two of his main projects.

One of his associates in the transportation industry was Robert James Reekie, president of the Kingston Locomotive Works, which designed the engine for the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1861 Reekie purchased RoseMount from Young, who moved back to England to educate his daughters. Eventually, Reekie decided to build two identical mansions on the RoseMount driveway, closer to that part of Côte St. Antoine (which was to become Sher-

brooke St.), and he sold off the land on the opposite side of the driveway to James K. Ward, a thriving lumber merchant, in 1872. Ward, who was to become one of the original councillors for the newly-formed



Hon. James K. Ward, circa 1890. Image from Wikipedia.

municipality of Notre Dame de Grâce and its second mayor, built his own mansion on the site and named it "Villa Mona," reflecting back to the Mona Saw Mills on the Isle of Man, where he grew up and learned about lumber.

By 1888 *Lovell's Directory* started assigning civic numbers to the properties on Rosemount Ave. – there were about a dozen by then – and gave Ward the number 12, while another lumber merchant, James H. Redfern, lived at 18 Rosemount. (He was to become mayor in 1894.) In 1891, *Lovell's* leaves out a number for "Villa Mona" while still listing Redfern at No. 18; by 1894, when *Lovell's* first included Côte St. Antoine houses in its street directory, J.K. Ward is listed at 18 Rosemount while J.H. Redfern has the address of 28 Rosemount. There appears to be a business relationship between them, but this cannot be confirmed.

Lily Reekie, daughter of Robert, married J.J.C. Ward, and father (J.K.) built them a house at 474 Mount Pleasant Ave. J.K. Ward's second wife was Lydia Trenholme, while N.W. Trenholme, QC, the first dean of the faculty of law at McGill University, moved into the original RoseMount estate in 1887. So it is clear this was, shall we say, a tight-knit community.

There were two houses to the south of "Villa Mona" and various others stretching up the hill toward the RoseMount estate (Rosemount Cres. and Severn Ave. did not appear until 1924). An excerpt from the *Westmount News*, date uncertain, as reprinted in the *Manx (Isle of Man) Quarterly* #9, 1910, gives an idea of the house, and the Westmount Historical Association has other photos:

*sic* "One has only to spend an hour with Mr. Ward in his retreat on Rosemount Avenue, with its evident marks of culture and refinement, paintings in oil and water colours, rare prints, old china, bronze statuettes of Michelangelo, and Benvenuto Celim, together with antique curios gathered in a long life, and to hear him discourse thereon, with manifest knowledge, to perceive the secret of the mind health of the veteran Westmount townsman. Unlike Darwin, he has not in strenuous pursuit of business allowed the the springs of imagination and its



Villa Mona, 18 Rosemount Ave., now demolished.

Photo courtesy of Westmount Historical Association

pleasures to dry up. As to his political ideals, the fact that in his drawing-room, the chief place is given to a fine painting of Oliver Cromwell is evidence enough. In matters of religion, he holds the faith John Wesley held, and has occupied a pew in Dominion Square Methodist Church, Montreal, for thirty-four years. On September 26th, 1907, one of his life-dreams was realised; for on that day there was opened in Peel, Isle of Man, on the very spot where he was born, a \$10,000 public library, his own gift to the lovely Manxland in the Irish Sea."

J.K. Ward died in 1910, and a year later "Villa Mona" was sold to Marjorie S. Ward, presumably one of his 15 children. She was married to Harold G. Eadie; the couple had lived at 41 Rosemount, before paying \$21,500 to buy the estate (whose executors included his son and Charles J. Root (who lived two doors away at 8 Rosemount). The Eadie family lived there until about 1913 and eventually moved away to England, renting the house to Mark E. Nichols, president and managing director of the Montreal Daily Mail Publishing Co. and one of the founders of Canadian Press. In 1919, Walter B. Ramsay appears in *Lovell's* as the occupant of 18 Rosemount Ave., but the

deed was not signed until August 1920, at which time he paid Marjorie Ward \$40,000 for the sprawling property.

Ramsay's grandfather, Alexander, had come from Scotland in 1835 and established a paint and varnish factory on Inspector St. in Montreal. His father moved to Côte St. Antoine in 1889, building a detached house at 495 Argyle Ave. (since demolished). Walter Ramsay ..... took over the business in *continued on p. 9*

## Sales history of 18 Rosemount Ave.

Date	Buyer	Price
May 4, 1875	James K. Ward	
	Purchased land from Robert Reekie	
May 3, 1911	Marjorie S. Ward, wife of Harold Eadie	\$21,500
Aug 22, 1920	Walter B. Ramsay, merchant & manufacturer	\$40,000
Feb 23, 1931	Toronto General Trusts Corp.	\$25,000
Apr 28, 1939	Grand Trunk Railway of Canada Superannuation and Provident Fund	*
Jun 28, 1949	André Duhamel, broker	\$25,000

\**Dation en paiement*

Don't miss our letters section, p. 24

1916 before he purchased the villa. The stock market crash of 1929 seriously affected him and he was forced to turn over the house to the Toronto General Trusts Corporation, which took over the various mortgages outstanding on the property. The trust company rented it to Baron Ernest Kervyn de Meerendre, consul of Belgium. Ramsay recovered title to the house in 1936 but died soon after, and his widow was forced to turn the property back over to the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada Superannuation and Provident Fund Association, which held the lion's share of the mortgage, in 1939.

The pension fund held onto the property and rented it out to Brian Heward, a partner of Jones Heward & Co., stockbrokers, for 10 years. In June 1949, André Duhamel, who called himself simply a "broker," purchased the mansion for \$25,000 and

moved in, staying there for nine years until he transformed it into an 18-unit rooming house, following a practice which appears to have affected many Westmount properties in the late 1950s.

The two houses to the south of the mansion disappeared from *Lovell's Directory* in 1951, and in their place appeared the massive Westmount Terrace 6-storey apartment building, with the address of 10 Rosemount Ave. in 1952 (1 Rosemount, on the opposite corner of Sherbrooke St., had been there since 1921). The "Villa Mona" mansion, then, moved into the 1960s as a somewhat seedy rooming house overshadowed by two huge apartment buildings; its fate was sealed.

*In an upcoming issue we will look into what happened to the new 12 Rosemount Ave. Stay tuned.*



Rosemount being "macadamized" (paved), date unknown; 18 Rosemount is on far left. The source of the photo is the Westmount Historical Association archives, as published in *The Westmount Historian*, September 2009.

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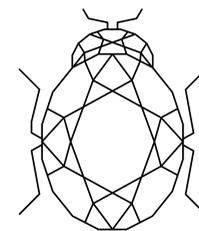
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# Belvedere Residence's local roots remain strong

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The Belvedere Residence, a quiet presence on St. Catherine St. between Park Place and Melville Ave., began as a retirement home for Westmount nannies. It later transformed into a home for recovering psychiatric patients.

Through the years, though, something that has remained constant at the residence is the involvement of Westmounters, says Judy Clark, a Lansdowne Ave. resident who is president of the board. Six out of seven board members are Westmounters.

"Women who were working for well-off Westmount families taking care of the children and the household" were the first residents, Clark told the *Independent*. The residence initially accommodated these women "when they retired and there was no safety net," she added.

A history of Prospect Belvedere Services (the legal name used by the board), written by treasurer Julie Dawson, traces its beginnings back to the 1960s.

That's when the Red Feather – which oversaw charity and philanthropy on behalf of the Montreal region's Protestant and non-sectarian communities prior to

the creation of Centraide in 1974 – "set up low-cost residences to help house people able to function independently," Dawson wrote.

Red Feather was located at 1040 Atwater Ave. in Westmount just below Dorchester Blvd., where the symbol remains embedded in the façade of the building to this day. Westmount Rotary bought and presented Red Feather with Prospect House, which was located on Prospect St. in lower Westmount, and the Belvedere Residence was acquired around the same time.

In 1971, according to Dawson's history, the provincial government passed Bill 65, which effectively nationalized Quebec's social services, including hospitals, social service agencies and residences for the aged and disabled.

However, since Prospect House and Belvedere Residence were not considered to be in these categories, Red Feather asked four United Churches (St. Andrew's, Westmount Park United, Dominion Douglas United and Queen Mary Road United – three of which were in Westmount) to take over the operation of the residences.

In 1979, it was decided, because of the expense of running two residences, to sell Prospect House, with the proceeds going



From left, Belvedere Residence support worker Gerry Willett, residence director Ethel Lenetsky Fungler and board of directors president Judy Clark are seen here September 15 on the front entrance steps.

to upgrading the Belvedere Residence. Thus, an addition was built, adding eight new rooms as well as other renovations.

Belvedere Residence accommodates 33 residents on two floors. Each floor has three kitchens with two stoves, two sinks and two refrigerators, a fully-equipped bathroom, three powder rooms, a shower

room and a lounge with cable TV. There are also laundry facilities in the basement.

A night watchman is on duty from midnight until 6 am and cleaning help comes in for the public areas a few days a week. Rent is currently \$295 a month for a room, with access to a shared kitchen and other facilities. Potential residents are referred by doctors or social services.

Belvedere Residence's finances are well managed, to the extent that the board sometimes can have difficulty obtaining grants. According to Clark, an application for funding to the Echo Foundation was turned down when Echo wrote back saying Belvedere had too much money in its bank accounts.

For years, the residence has run a successful annual fundraising campaign that solicits support from persons whose names appear on a list of 200 regular contributors. "We get an 85 per cent response, which is extremely loyal," said Clark, while adding that up to 50 per cent of the donations come from within Westmount.

## For Caregivers of Seniors: Benefiting the most from CLSC services

The YWCA "Support to Family Caregivers Program" will be giving a free talk on what's available in the CLSC system and how to get the most help. Geared towards family caregivers of seniors with a loss of autonomy, but useful for everyone.

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# St. Léon expansion has many unknowns

*cont'd. from p. 1*

school commission boundaries had been redrawn to allow all children in Westmount to be eligible to attend St. Léon rather than requiring new students living west of Victoria to attend school in NDG (see story April 26, 2016, p. 8).

## Pressure from city

“This wouldn’t have happened without a lot of pressure from the city,” Forbes said. “As it turned out, the kindergarten was not full.”

In the absence of any information to the city from the school commission about the announced construction, “we’re hoping to meet with them in the next few weeks,” said Tom Flies, the city’s director of Urban Planning.

“We need to take a look at what has already been built on the site,” and how it conforms to zoning criteria and their permitted uses for assembly buildings.

At this point, he said, he did not know whether any of the school’s interior would be rejigged to accommodate some of the new classrooms.

The three-storey building – the maxi-

mum allowable height – is situated along Clarke just south of Sherbrooke. It includes a large playground on Kitchener, as well as a parking area for teachers’ cars.

While the permitted site coverage of the property is 30 percent, Flies said, until an updated certificate of location is submitted, he had been unable to determine how much of the site is already covered. He said city files did not include a certificate of location.

“If a proposal is submitted,” it would have to include such a certificate, he explained. The site is also subject to other zoning limitations such as massing.

## Neighbours’ objections

Forbes noted that previous suggestions about possible installation of temporary classrooms had given rise to some objections from nearby residents concerning loss of empty space provided by the playground as well as traffic congestion and safety issues.

Neighbours’ concerns have already been voiced following the announced expansion by the school commission (see September 19, Letters, p. 6).

It was in the spring of 2015 when the city had first been approached by the school



*St. Léon's school yard as viewed from the playground on Kitchener Ave. September 19.*

about expanding the building to accommodate an “exploding” enrollment. At the time, it was reported the city had been waiting for the school to present building plans after they had obtained construction

financing (see story April 12, 2016, p. 4).

The overcrowding has been attributed to the lack of a French elementary school serving the population east of Atwater including downtown.

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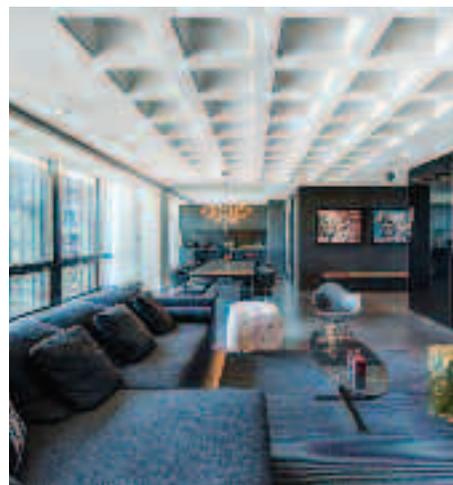
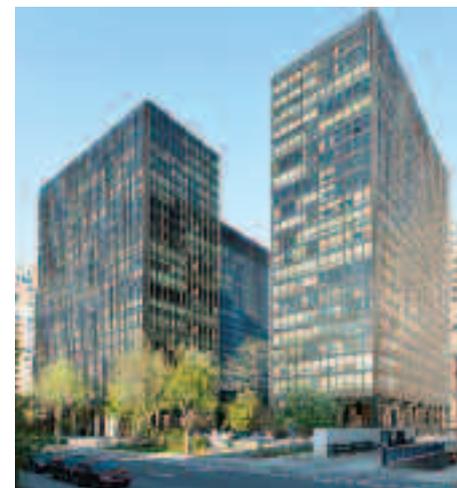
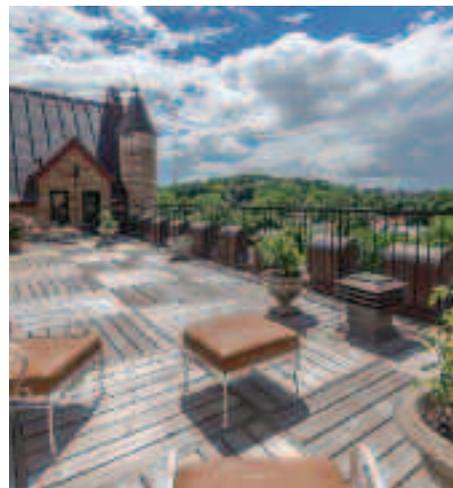
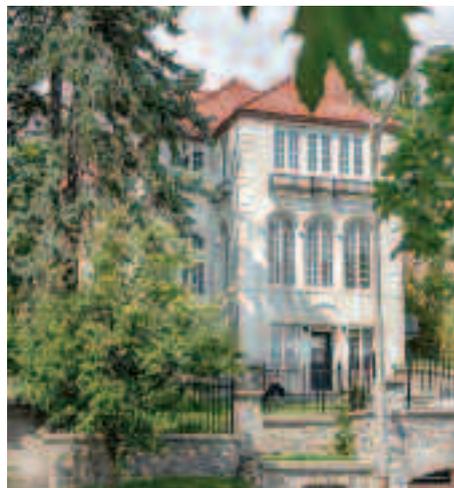


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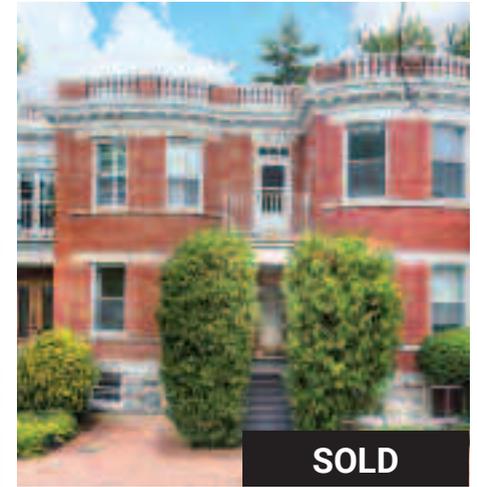
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\* 2016 GCI (Gross Commission Income)

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## Police Report

## False alarm on Lansdowne the real thing a week later

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

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

The owner of a home near the corner of Lansdowne Ave. and The Boulevard, who had recently experienced a false burglar alarm, found that an alarm set off a week later was for a real break-in, according to community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

Officers from Station 12 met the owner on September 23 on the street outside his house, where he had been instructed to remain after calling 911, in case the suspect was still inside.

After being summoned to his home by the alarm, he found that a window in a rear door had been shattered and a chair had been placed underneath, evidently to facilitate the intruder's entry. Police were unable to find a suspect after entering.

Although the incident remains under investigation, the investigators were uncertain as to whether any property was taken since the owner hadn't completed

filling out an inventory of stolen items.

### Hit and run suspect pursued all the way downtown

A hit-and-run between two cars on the evening of September 15, which began in Westmount, ended in downtown Montreal when the driver of one of the vehicles called the police.

"The plaintiff was waiting at Guy and Sherbrooke, but the incident started at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

According to Pimentel, the complainant reported she had been driving east along Sherbrooke. However, near the corner of Lansdowne, the right lane was closed off with traffic cones.

As she was trying to navigate into the left lane, the vehicle in front of her made an abrupt stop in order to make a left turn. Trying to navigate back to the right, she was struck by another vehicle.

The complainant said the driver of the vehicle that struck hers started yelling profanities. However, he proceeded along his way without stopping. She followed him

all the way to Guy and Sherbrooke, where she lost track of him, Pimentel said.

The complainant was able to furnish police with a description of the suspect's vehicle, as well as his licence plate number.

A file has been opened by the police department's traffic incident investigations unit, and the delinquent driver is likely to end up paying a hefty fine while also facing the possibility of criminal charges, Pimentel added.

### Cyclist/car collision, 2 burglaries

On September 19 just after 4 pm, a cyclist travelling eastward along the bike path on de Maisonneuve Blvd. collided with a car at the corner of Redfern Ave.

According to Montreal police community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, the cyclist may have failed to make a stop at the corner. No major injuries were reported, and the services of Urgences Santé weren't needed.

In the early morning hours of September 9, officers from the Montreal police, responding to a burglar alarm set off at a Greene Ave. business, arrived on the scene to find the rear entrance open and a secu-

rity grill across the door broken.

After searching inside the establishment, they found the cash register had been opened and the cash drawer missing. As well, a small strongbox containing valuables was found open, although the officers were uncertain whether any of its contents were missing.

Sometime between September 8 at 10 pm and September 12 around 8:30 pm, a shop located on the north side of St. Antoine St. was broken into. Office supplies had been stolen.

"The plaintiff said that when he returned to work, he noticed that the front door of his shop was open," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, adding that he also noticed the door's lock was slightly damaged.

The plaintiff noticed that some office materials were missing, including an adhesive tape dispenser and a stapler. At the same time, he noticed there was accumulated water on the floor of the office from a broken pipe in a washroom.

According to Pimentel, a theory the investigators are examining ..... is that someone who went *continued on p. 23*

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# City outlines next steps in greenhouse project

*cont'd. from p. 3*

by Lord & Burnham, the builders of Westmount's.

## Looking forward

The next step is for the city to assemble an architectural team to start putting together some of the documents for going to tender. The team includes newly appointed Public Works building inspector Kinan Khati, an architect.

This would be preliminary to the budgeting process to be undertaken by the incoming council, Hurtubise added.

He said certain aspects such as universal accessibility that was lacking in the original construction in the late 1920s would also have to be considered as well as heating issues.

The future of the production greenhouses is also to be taken into account considering the city no longer grows most of its own plants.

Lulham said Arup had been proposed and introduced to the city by conservation architect Julia Gersovitz, who chairs the city's Planning Advisory Committee.

The greenhouses were closed to the public by Quebec's workplace safety board and the city in September 2015 when a pane of glass fell from the top and shattered. This led to the discovery of other loose ones and the condition of the buildings was deemed to be generally unsafe (see story October 20, 2015, p. 1).

The Westmount conservatory is reported to be only one of two examples of cascading greenhouses surviving in Canada today.



*The steel structure of the conservatory is reported to be intact, seen September 29.*

## Residents compost pick-up a yearly fall tradition

"I have a nice garden on Victoria, and I grow flowers, raspberries, tomatoes and herbs," said Celia Lang, who was at the city's Public Works yards September 30, the day the city made free compost available for residents to pick up.

"I'll put some soil down this fall and save some for next spring," she said.

Environmental coordinator for the city of Westmount Marina Peter said the ten tons of compost came from the Le Complexe environnemental de St. Michel, where Westmount and Montreal dump their leaves, which is turned into compost each year.

*See photo, p. 1.*

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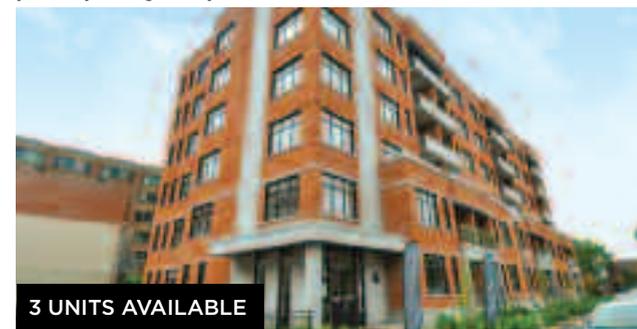
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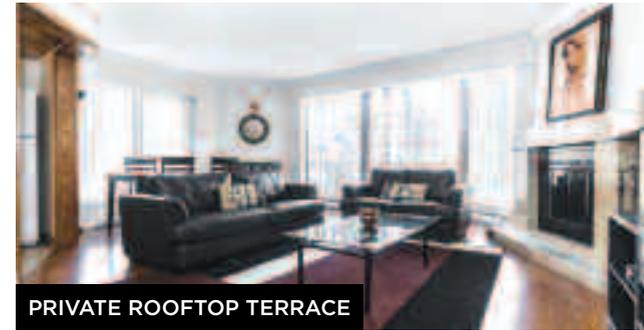
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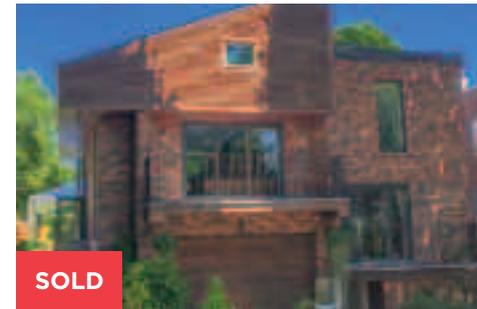
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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2017

For transfers, please consult paper copy.

.....  
continued on p. 20

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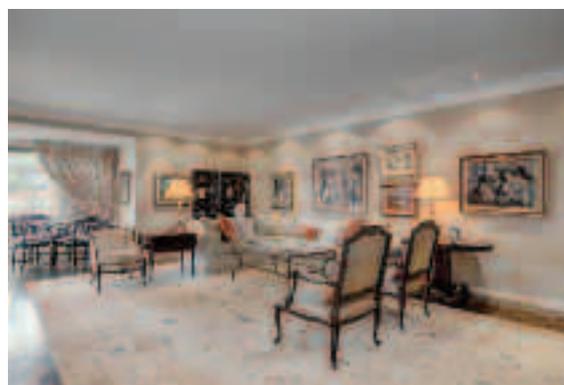
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Sales analysis

# June transfers: Volume eases off



**Real Estate**  
ANDY DODGE



160 Metcalfe: Biggest mark-up, 56 percent.

ovated. The low end of the list included four houses that sold for less than \$1 million, while the high end shows another four that cleared the \$2-million mark.

Among those less than \$1 million, 160 Metcalfe Ave., which sold for \$810,000, represented a mark-up of 56 percent compared to its municipal valuation, while the \$895,000 paid for 4895 de Maisonneuve Blvd. was 11 percent less than its tax value.

Average price among the 20 sales was

\$1,637,050, and the average mark-up over valuation was just over 10 percent. For the first six months of 2017 a total 102 one- and two-family sales have been registered, the highest first-half-year volume since 2010 and way above the 89 registered last year-to-date or 76 in the same time period of 2015.

If the monthly volume was slower than one might expect for single-family homes, the 10 condominium sales registered in



4658 St. Catherine: Highest condo price, \$1,875,000; highest condo mark-up, 109.3 percent.



4895 de Maisonneuve Blvd., biggest mark-down, 11.31 percent.

June helped boost the volume for the second quarter of 2017 to 16, ranging in price from \$300,000 to \$2,162,500 (in May) and with ratios ranging from a 26-percent mark-down to a 109-percent mark-up, the latter for 4658 St. Catherine St., one of the flats in the modern triplex-type buildings east of the former Pom Bakery complex.

Overall this year, volume of condo sales is down somewhat, but last year marked the beginning of sales for several new buildings, including 215 Redfern Ave., 11 Hillside Ave. and 175 Metcalfe Ave.

The only other June sale ..... which has come to our at- *continued on p. 21*



Dorchester lot: Sold for \$223.80 per square foot.



128 Abbott: Lowest price, \$721,500.

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2017 gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.

June is usually the strongest month for real estate transfers in Westmount. This year was good, but not great, perhaps because the previous months had been so strong. A tally of 20 single-family sales were registered in June, the same number as in May and one less than in March, but low compared to the 10-year average of 26 sales.

Prices ranged from \$721,500 for 128 Abbott Ave., a small semi-detached cottage, to \$3,860,000 for 3 Forden Ave., a detached brick home that had been extensively ren-



3 Forden, highest price, \$3,860,000.

**Bought & Sold cont'd. from p. 19**

ADDRESS	FROM	To	PRICE	2017 VALUATION	RATIO (%)
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For transfers, please consult paper copy.

## Special bloom for Bloomfield



Westmounter Nancy Bloomfield got her very own orchid – named for her – for her birthday, a promise, made 32 years ago, fulfilled this summer by her husband Harry

Bloomfield. “Vanda Nancy Bloomfield” was officially certified August 16 by the Royal Horticultural Society (inset). She is seen here August 11 in her home. Photos: Veronica Redgrave

### June transfers cont'd. from p. 20

attention involved the vacant land on Dorchester Blvd. (next to the former United Nurses building), once the site of 4216 Dorchester, an apartment building destroyed by fire in 1998, which had finally been demolished two years ago (see stories September 15, 2015, p. 9, and October 18, 2016, p. 1). The land sold for a cool \$1,660,000 – or \$223.80 per square foot – to a company headed by Westmount resident Brett Miller.

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### HÔTEL DE VILLE

#### Bureaux municipaux fermés le 9 octobre

Les services de Westmount seront fermés le lundi 9 octobre en raison de la fête de l'Action de grâce.

#### Élections municipales : personnel électoral

Si vous souhaitez faire partie de l'équipe électorale à Westmount, veuillez remplir le formulaire électronique au [westmount.org/vote](http://westmount.org/vote).

### TRAVAUX PUBLICS

#### Collecte de feuilles mortes

**Octobre et novembre.** Placez vos sacs de feuilles et de résidus de jardin en bordure du trottoir avant 7 h les jours de semaine. Seuls les SACS EN PAPIER sont acceptés. 514 989-5390.

### BIBLIOTHÈQUE

#### Inscriptions aux activités d'automne

À compter du **mercredi 13 septembre** au comptoir des enfants. 514 989-5229.

#### Série Récits de voyages

**Les vendredis du 15 septembre au 13 octobre,** Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. L'inscription est requise. 514 989-5530 ou [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org).

#### Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

**Les mercredis 4 et 18 octobre,** Bibliothèque. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

#### Club de films documentaires

**Le mercredi 4 octobre, 19 h,** Bibliothèque. *Angry Inuk* (2016). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

#### Rencontres d'auteurs : Anna et Jane McGarrigle

**Le mercredi 11 octobre, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. Chansons et lecture d'extraits du récit familial, *Mountain City Girls*. 10 \$. Billets disponibles à la Bibliothèque et au Victoria Hall. 514 989-5299.

#### Conférences-midi

**Le mardi 17 octobre, 12 h 30,** Victoria Hall. *Little Burgundy and Black Settlement in Montreal* avec Dorothy Williams, PhD. En collaboration avec Le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10\$. 514 989-5226.

### Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 13 novembre

#### Conférences de 14 heures : Yannick Gervais

**Le mercredi 18 octobre, 14 h,** Bibliothèque.

*Ciné-conférence : Croatie* (présenté en français). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

#### Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

**Le mercredi 18 octobre, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

#### Rencontres d'auteurs : Anne Campbell

**Le vendredi 20 octobre, 19 h,** Bibliothèque.

Rencontrez Anne Campbell, auteure de *The Fabric of Day*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

#### Festival interculturel du conte de Montréal

**Le samedi 21 octobre, 14 h,** Bibliothèque. Un événement international avec des conteurs remarquables de partout dans le monde, dont le conteur britannique-guyanais TUUP. Pour toute la famille et les enfants de 6 ans et plus. 514 989-5229.

#### Extravaganza de l'Halloween (6 ans et +)

**Le samedi 28 octobre, 19 h à 21 h,** Bibliothèque. Décorez une citrouille (aucun découpage) et apportez-la à la Bibliothèque au plus tard le 27 octobre pour obtenir votre billet pour l'événement. Venez déguisé à notre soirée magique du 28 octobre! 514 989-5229.

### ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

#### Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

**Du 5 octobre au 3 novembre.** La galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres de **Desmond Senior**. Venez rencontrer l'artiste et la conservatrice Victoria LeBlanc **le mercredi 11 octobre à 19 h.** Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

#### Projection de film : *Isabel*

**Le samedi 14 octobre, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. Projection du film *Isabel* de Paul Almond avec conférenciers. Billets requis. 514 989-5226.

#### Élections : rencontre les candidats

**Les mercredis 18 et 25 octobre, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. L'Association municipale de Westmount vous invite à rencontrer les candidats aux élections municipales lors de deux soirées : le 18 octobre pour les candidats au conseil et le 25 octobre pour les candidats à la mairie. [wma-amw.org](http://wma-amw.org).

#### Maison hantée de l'Halloween

**Le mardi 31 octobre, 17 h à 20 h,** pavillon du boulingrin. Westmount présente le **Cauchemar avant l'hiver**. Soyez des nôtres cette année. 514 989-5367.

## Sign up TO WESTMOUNT E-NEWSLETTER

Visit [westmount.org/ewestmount](http://westmount.org/ewestmount) to subscribe and receive the latest news by email from your City!

### CITY HALL

#### Municipal offices closed October 9

Westmount's services will be closed Monday, October 9 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

#### Municipal election: electoral personnel

If you would like to join the Westmount election team, please fill out the form at [westmount.org/en/vote-en](http://westmount.org/en/vote-en).

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### Autumn leaf collection

**Throughout October and November.** Place your bagged leaves and garden waste behind the sidewalk by 7 a.m. on weekdays. Only PAPER BAGS are accepted. 514 989-5390.

### LIBRARY

#### Registration for fall activities

**From Wednesday, September 13** at the Children's Desk. 514-989-5229.

#### Tales and Travels Series

**Fridays to October 13, 1 p.m.,** Library. A weekly activity for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required: 514 989-5530 or [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org).

#### Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

**Wednesdays, October 4 and 18, 10:15 a.m.,** Library. Welcome to all. 514 989-5299.

#### Documentary Film Club

**Wednesday, October 4, 7p.m.,** Library. *Angry Inuk* (2016). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

#### Author Lecture Series: Anna and Jane McGarrigle

**Wednesday, October 11, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Readings and songs from the family memoir, *Mountain City Girls*. \$10. Tickets available at the Library and Victoria Hall. 514 989-5299.

#### Afternoon Lecture Series

**Tuesday, October 17, 12:30 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. *Little Burgundy and Black Settlement in Montreal* with Dorothy Williams, PhD. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10/lecture. 514 989-5226.

### Next Council Meeting Monday, November 13

#### 2 O'Clock Conferences: Yannick Gervais

**Wednesday, October 18, 2 p.m.,** Library. *Ciné-conférence : Croatie* (presented in French). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

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

**Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Bring a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

#### Author Lecture Series: Anne Campbell

**Friday, October 20, 7 p.m.,** Library. Come meet Anne Campbell, author of *The Fabric of Day*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

#### Montreal Intercultural Storytelling Festival

**Saturday, October 21, 2 p.m.,** Library. An international event that brings outstanding storytellers from around the world, featuring Guyanese-British storyteller TUUP. A family event for children 6+. 514 989-5229.

#### Halloween Extravaganza (6 years +)

**Saturday, October 28, 7 to 9 p.m.,** Library. Decorate a pumpkin (no carving) and bring it to the Library by October 27<sup>th</sup>, to obtain your ticket for this special event, then join us in costume on October 28 for a magical night! 514 989-5229.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

**October 5 to November 3.** The Gallery is pleased to present works by artist **Desmond Senior**. Come meet the artist and Gallery Curator Victoria LeBlanc on **Wednesday, October 11 at 7 p.m.** Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

#### Film Screening: *Isabel*

**Saturday, October 14, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Join us for a screening of Paul Almond's film, *Isabel* (1968). Tickets required. 514 989-5226.

#### Election: Meet the Candidates

**Wednesdays, October 18 and 25, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. The Westmount Municipal Association invites you to meet the candidates in this year's municipal election on two evenings: October 18 for council candidates and October 25 for the Mayoral candidates. [wma-amw.org](http://wma-amw.org).

#### Halloween Haunted House

**Tuesday, October 31, 5 to 8 p.m.,** Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. Join us this year for Westmount's **Nightmare Before Winter**. 514 989-5367.



## Mattea, the miracle kitten



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Please email: [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org), or page: 514. 203.9180.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Mattea has a splint on her tiny leg due to a fracture to her paw. It will come off in a few weeks so she should be on all four paws soon.

There is no delicate way to put what happened to her. Mattea and her kitten sibling were tossed from a 10th-floor window in downtown Montreal. Her brother didn't survive but Mattea survived by landing in a dumpster. She was taken in by Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions volunteers.

She is a one-year-old black domestic shorthair with soft golden eyes. Considering her experience, she is lively and very affectionate for a recovering kitten. She is out of clinic now and ready for a loving family in our neighbourhood.

### Police report cont'd. from p. 14

in to respond to the water leak while the plaintiff was away may have stolen the objects at the same time. The incident remains under investigation.

### Officers to be on hand Oct. 5 to answer questions on seniors' questions

Staff from Station 12 will be on hand at the Contactivity Centre to take part in an event marking International Day of Older Persons, October 5 from 12:30 to 2 pm. Community relations officers from the station will be answering questions and giving out information on seniors' abuse as well as fraud artists.

## Marianopolis receives \$6 million from Ottawa



From left: Marianopolis director general Christian Corno, Garneau and Don Taddeo, chair of the college's board of directors, September 22 at the college. Photo courtesy of Marianopolis

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount-NDG MP Marc Garneau was at Marianopolis College September 22 to announce \$6.02 million in federal funding to help upgrade the college building, which is regarded as architecturally significant. Dating from 1925, what is now Marianopolis College was designed by architect Jean-Omer Marchand, one of the most renowned in his field at the time. Marchand was also the architect of the former Mother House building on Sherbrooke St. near Atwater Ave., which is now Dawson College. According to a statement issued by the government, the funding will be divided between two projects at Marianopolis involving the upgrade of science labs and improving the energy efficiency of

the college's buildings. Marianopolis is providing a further \$7.69 million for the projects.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**INSIST ON DEFINITION OF  
'PRIVATE' CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING THIS ELECTION**

Observers of the process of governance by our elected municipal government in Westmount have remarked on the lack of debate at council meetings, even on contentious issues. This is not surprising, as Westmount's city council holds a private meeting prior to the public meeting, where thorny issues can be discussed and opinions aired. Other Quebec municipalities do the same.

But holding private meetings clearly contravenes the Quebec Cities and Towns Act, C-19, which states (para. 322) "The sittings of the council shall be public." Calling the private meeting a "committee meeting," as Westmount and other cities do, using terminology such as "committee of the whole" or "general committee of council" may help mayors and councillors feel that they are acting within the law. But this behaviour has been challenged. A court decision in Nebraska held that such attempts to circumvent the law were illegal.

Of course, we're not in Nebraska! But it would help if Quebec's law spelled out clearly what is necessary, as Ontario does

in its City of Toronto Act. Here, "meeting" is defined (para. 189) as any regular, special or other meeting of city council, of the local board or of a committee of either of them. The act goes on to say that all these meetings, including committee meetings, shall be open to the public. Exceptions are clearly spelled out.

A Google search will turn up other instances of what are often called "sunshine" or "open government" laws. Quoting from A Quick Reference Guide to Oregon's Public Meetings Law: "Officials who attempt to keep their deliberations hidden from public scrutiny create cynicism, erode public trust and discourage involvement." Conversely, "Government officials gain credibility by permitting citizens to observe their information-gathering and decision-making processes. Such understanding leads to greater trust in government by its citizens."

The upcoming municipal elections in November provide us with an opportunity. I suggest that we, the voters, require that every candidate for municipal council or mayor publicly and clearly state their position on public meetings of council and of council committees. I fear many will waffle, but as the City of Toronto Act demonstrates, it's not difficult to clearly define the very limited set of cases where meet-

ings need to be private.

If we value transparency and openness, we will need to vote for it.

HENRY OLDERS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**PAY THE MAYOR PROPERLY**

It seems the former mayor has taken issue with one of the candidates for his old job. With all due respect to Mr. Trent, I have to disagree with his conclusions (see "It's pretty full-time, 'mayoring,'" September 19, p. 6).

While I trust the job is full-time, I won't be excluding candidates from consideration on the basis that they intend to hold other employment concurrently with the mayorship. The crux of the matter is that the mayor's salary is far too modest to expect one to give up another source of income. To do otherwise would be to limit Westmount's top job to those who, like Mr. Trent, are independently wealthy. Evidently, our city has no shortage of individuals who fall into that category, but the salary is exclusionary all the same.

We compensate many Canadian elected officials with reasonable pay, arguably, with the aim of inclusion and to avoid con-

flicts of interest. Our mayor, as Mr. Trent explained, must fulfill obligations to the Montreal agglomeration council, the Association of Suburban Municipalities, the Montreal Metropolitan Community and the Union of Quebec Municipalities.

That Westmount refuses to compensate its mayor accordingly is shameful. And only when the mayor is fairly compensated can we expect candidates to be altogether disinterested. In the meantime, I'm glad the incumbent has challengers. The city's interests are always in entertaining a broad range of candidates: we don't need more acclamations.

GABRIEL FELCAREK, ROSLYN AVE.

**TOO MANY MAYORAL  
CANDIDATES MAY WATER  
IT DOWN**

While I realize that some people may have put their ambitions on hold while we were fortunate to have Peter Trent as our mayor, I am concerned that the vote will split with so many candidates running for the position in the upcoming election. This will afford an opportunity for a candidate who

*continued on p. 25*

**Lindsay presents, Place K residents  
speak about wartime experiences**

Doreen Lindsay was invited to speak to the residents at Place Kensington on August 31 about their experiences during World War II. She also showed them her Powerpoint presentation "Women in Westmount who volunteered during the war," she said. For this, Lindsay said she interviewed three of the residents, seen here, from left: Marigold Hyde, Sarah Stevenson and Gwen Harris. "All three were students together at The Study and have remained friends over the years. Sarah was 19 when she joined the The Junior League, an organization run by women for women, based in the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montreal. Her friends joined about the same time. They would meet in each other's homes to knit wool socks, roll bandages or sew garments for the service men. Among the many war efforts they undertook, they organized bazaars in Victoria Hall," explained Lindsay. Some 30 residents listened to her and shared their experience of the war years, including recalling how buttons, elastics, tinfoil, aluminium and paper were collected, and saving stamps and bonds. Lindsay explained that some had worked with the Canadian Red Cross, the Junior League of Montreal and the Weeders and Diggers Club of Montreal. Some had families who took in children from England. One of the residents, Judy Hamilton (Patton) "let me photocopy an original Canadian Red Cross Society booklet giving knitting instructions for war work," she said.

Photo courtesy of D. Lindsay

**WESTMOUNT  
INDEPENDENT**

**We are Westmount.**

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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may not be well qualified to hold this important office.

With the welfare of our city foremost in my mind, I therefore ask those of you who have declared or will declare your intention to run for the position of mayor to withdraw if you do not have a wide support base. Instead, work with one of the candidates who does to ensure that your important ideas become part of their platform.

In addition, perhaps it is time that the office of mayor becomes a full-time paid position.\*

NICOLE GAREAU, KENSINGTON AVE.

\* *Editor's note: It is paid. Whether it's part-time or full-time is open to debate. – KM*

## CONSISTENCY A GOOD ATTRIBUTE IN A MAYOR

Consistency of position should be second nature to a one-time political operative. So it is rather curious that Beryl Wajzman, who helped the very man who made our city disappear at the end of 2001, today wants to be mayor of the same city that rose from the ashes four years later.

At least ten months before the city of Westmount was to be wiped out, Wajzman was recruiting candidates to run for Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque – the father of the megacity – in the November 2001 megacity election. Bourque's proudest achievement was to convince the PQ government to legislate forced municipal mergers.

As I wrote in my 2012 book, *The Merger Delusion*: “Beryl Wajzman, who also did work for the federal Liberal Party, was actively recruiting for Bourque.” And in the lead story of *The Suburban* of May 2, 2001, Côte St. Luc mayor Robert Libman confirmed he was approached by Wajzman to run for Bourque months before. Even Libman responded it would be “the kiss of death.”

*The Suburban* reported that “Bourque confirmed Wajzman's role when interviewed;” interestingly, “Wajzman did not return calls from *The Suburban*.”\* The article noted that Wajzman was working for Alfonso Gagliano, the federal Liberal's key Quebec organizer.

Wajzman will say today he didn't want to stand on the sidelines and that mergers were a done deal by the time he clambered onto Bourque's bandwagon. In other words, mergers were going to take place anyway; let's just accept that fact and help the guy who made them happen. But it was no time to run up the white flag. The legal challenge – led by me – against the forced mergers had not even got under way. To be fair, attacking the legislation was iffy – but the fact we did finally succeed in demerging proves that it was definitely not a done deal.

Being an advocate of *civil* rights is lovely, while not the bread-and-butter of a mayor's job. That said, a mayor should be ready to fight to the finish for the *civic* rights of citizens to decide the fate of their own city.

PETER TRENT, FORMER MAYOR  
OF WESTMOUNT

\* *Editor's note: Beryl Wajzman was not the editor of *The Suburban* at the time. – KM*

## RENEGADE NOT THE BEST MAYORAL OPTION

So now we know. [Councillor] Patrick Martin, after a short – but public – hesitation waltz between running to be a councillor and running to be mayor in the Westmount election, has, at the very last minute, decided he wants the mayor's job. Keep in mind that the two other mayoral candidates announced (or suggested) some six months ago they were running. I have served on council for 12 years with Patrick Martin and can say that this sort of behaviour is not untypical.

Councillor Patrick Martin always enjoyed being a renegade like this. We do not have political parties in Westmount; all members of council are independent. He has played the role of a sort of one-man, self-appointed opposition to his council colleagues. That was absolutely his prerogative. But to be an effective mayor requires the exact opposite of this kind of behaviour.

The mayor cannot dictate nor be a one-man show. The mayor needs to win his colleagues over. The mayor has only one vote on council; and, unless he can convince at least the majority of his councillors of the wisdom of his policies, nothing will get done. In other words, a mayor has to win the respect and confidence of the councillors; something Patrick Martin has never succeeded in doing during all his three terms on Westmount council.

Everyone has specific talents. Everyone has an appropriate place in our society. Unfortunately for Patrick Martin, being mayor is not one of them.

NICOLE FORBES, DISTRICT 6 CITY  
COUNCILLOR

## OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILLORS

The private value of a real estate development project for a developer-owner is greatly enhanced if the developer-owner can obtain permission (variances) to either change the use of a property to a more profitable use and/or to change the density of the contemplated project on that property.

That is the case of the proposed 500 Claremont project, which consists of two non-conforming requests under By-law 1489, Specific Construction Alteration, or

Occupancy Proposals for an Immovable (SCAOPI). The first non-conforming request under SCAOPI is to change the use of the current dwelling (after modification) to a multi-family dwelling. The second non-conforming request under SCAOPI is to significantly increase the height and density of the project. These changes provide a huge private material benefit for the developer-owner.

SCAOPI is designed to deal with such non-conforming projects in “exchange for accepting the special consideration requested by the developer...The balance between individual and collective interests must be sought.”

We know that the acceptance of this non-conforming project has a huge monetary benefit for the developer, but is this reasonably balanced by the benefits for the collective interests? The answer is an unequivocal no.

The alleged benefits are as follows. The first is two park benches on Claremont Ave. This is not much of a benefit even if it is situated on the private property of the developer. Given that there are park benches across the street in Prince Albert Park, who would want to sit on these benches given that they will be in close proximity to the entry/exit of the project's underground garage and noisy Claremont, including its bus traffic?

The second benefit is the two parking spots on the private property of the developer. This is also not much of a benefit since one, and most likely two, public parking spots on Claremont will be lost. In addition, a Car2go-type service could most likely be situated on the street on Windsor or somewhere more appropriate in Westmount.

The right of the city of Westmount to review the species of trees to be used on the property has some value but this is dwarfed by the huge monetary benefit for the developer.

I do not deal with property tax considerations since I was told at a meeting at city hall that such is not a consideration when examining collective interests. Neither do I deal with other unfavourable consequences of the proposed project detailed and aptly stated by Ken London and others.

The city could and should have been a more able negotiator to obtain a substantially improved balance between individual and collective interests since at present it is hugely skewed in favour of the developer. The acceptance of such meagre benefits for the collective interests in return for huge private benefits for the developer does not bode well for other non-conforming project requests under SCAOPI.

LAWRENCE KRYZANOWSKI,  
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

## TIME TO PRIORITIZE HOCKEY IN AND FOR WESTMOUNT

The August 29 issue reported that a “new hockey ruling could draw away the city's best players” (p. 3), forcing players to choose between their school or inter-city teams.

It is high time for Westmount to consider changes to make it more compelling for players and parents to prioritize playing in and for Westmount:

1. Drop out of the relationship with Lasalle for double-letter hockey and create our own double letter teams and/or strengthen our single-letter teams. Lasalle consistently puts their kids first. Follow Verdun's lead in pulling out of the Lasalle program.
2. Shift from volunteer-parent to hired coaches for head coaching jobs – the quality, temperament and commitment of parent-coaches varies considerably. Hire paid head coaches to deliver more consistent quality and commitment, and to produce more satisfied players and parents.
3. Beef up our single-letter team schedules. One to two 50-minute games and one 50-minute practice per week cannot hope to compete with school or double-letter ice times. Schedule more practice time and more (and longer) exhibition games and tournaments. Currently – outside of Cape Anne – this is left to the volunteer coaches and managers. “Professionalize” this.
4. Expand management resources and responsibilities. Create a committee including paid coaches, volunteer-parents with a passion to improve Westmount hockey, Westmount Sports and Recreation staff and perhaps the city councillor responsible for Sports and Recreation. Make this committee responsible for setting hockey policies, setting the “ground rules” on minimum mandatory player attendance/participation, and proactively managing anticipated conflicts with (private and public) school activities and vacation schedules. Hire a full-time hockey program coordinator.

Westmount hockey is fun right now, but participation is trending in the wrong direction. We can create a program that is attractive enough to compete with double letters and the schools. Additional expenditures would be required. But these would pale next to the investments to build our new arena. Let's aim for a hockey program with ambitions that correspond with the facilities we have built!

STEVEN COBRIN, YORK ST.

# Greta tours Gaspé and discusses personal style



## Colourfully Yours

AURELIEN GUILLORY &  
GRETA VONSCHMEDLAPP

Hello again my dear design fiends and friends! It has been a busy summer. I'm certain that when you read the headline, your inner voice said "How is touring the

Gaspé related to defining one's taste?"

Well, my dears, this article has been incubating in my upper cerebellum for several weeks since our whirlwind summer trip. I kept asking my muse to work hard on linking the tour of the famous peninsula to Montreal homes. My disparate ideas coalesced into the following thoughts.

Remember, Aurel and I are totally blasé about spending many dollars for decor, as we have seen so much wasted with little effect and imagination. We stayed in B&Bs. What really was memorable was the way these owners created their very personal decors. Our first was with an unusually inventive lady, Jeanine. Her creativity was boundless with wit and invention. Upon entering, I really felt we were in a doll's house, as we are both hovering around six-foot tall, while she had to stretch to reach five! So, the scale of her charming abode was quite different.

### Méchant?

We were greeted by a small doggy looking at us from the corner. We said *bonjour* to it, and then noticed the sign above: "Attention, chien méchant." And to our surprise, we realized it was stuffed – very realistically! Then we noticed that the two "sofas" in the small salon were antique claw-foot bathtubs – each had one side cut away and was upholstered in a charming floral cotton. The table supporting the large flatscreen TV sported tiny black patent shoes on the legs. Ascending upward on the stair wall was a collection of about 30 antique keys. Her kitchen cupboards all had wrought iron handles orig-

inally used for lifting the iron cooking plates from the old wood burning stoves. The two bedrooms upstairs had antique patchwork quilts of her design.

So, dear readers, what is the concept here? Re-using and repurposing antique elements really make a memorable home. Starting a colour theme from the major element of the beds controls the colour choices and differentiates them.

Now, on to our next B&B, which was more upscale, but hopeless in the decor department. A giant table was permanently laid-out with all dishes and cutlery – a totally boring, aesthetically-challenged atmosphere. Our hostess wanted us to be gone by 8:30 am. Sadly, she has lived in this bore all of her adult life!

Our favourite memory was at the tip of Gaspé in the shadow of the tallest lighthouse. As you might suspect, its theme was ocean and lighthouse. Stepping in, it felt like the scene of a 1950s *Chatelaine* cover. Frothy curtains, lace tablecloths, many miniature lighthouses, etc. The couple proved to be the most hospitable of the whole trip. They were determined to keep their century-old board-and-batten walls. Each of their four rooms was thoughtfully presented with different colours and amusing "bébelles" – a perfect example of controlled clutter. With such a fresh and different approach, we really sensed we were by the sea, and in the Gaspé, local atmosphere is key.

Finally, on our way home, we found the motel, Le Pirate. Now, between us, this was a standard structure with a string of rooms facing a superb view of the St. Lawrence River, really feeling like the ocean. What first surprised us driving by was the life-size sculpture of a pirate, complete with a peg leg. The rooms were simple, with plain fabrics and thoughtful

black-out drapes. Each room had a large dramatic sailing scene over the bed, "pirated" from several different Disney movies.

What really caught our design eyes was the solid wood-panelled sliding door with a rustic iron handle for the bathroom. What a space saver! Often Aurel has convinced his clients to consider either a "pocket" door, which can be made invisible, or one with a sliding track.

My dear loyal readers, do reveal your inner visions of what your home tells about you. Let the architecture of your home influence this; but also show your guests something about your family and what memorabilia you have found during your travels. We know someone very close to us with approximately 100 teapots. How's that for a theme? Each one has a story of origin as well as how they were discovered.

*Always eager to hear from you  
(aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com),  
colourfully yours, Greta von Schmedlapp  
(and Aurelien).*

## Blocking lanes brings tickets for \$1,250

Two construction contractors were issued tickets for \$1,250 each when their equipment was found set up in back lanes without a permit and obstructing passage, Public Security officials said.

A lift was found September 18 blocking the lane behind 285 Clarke at 11:51 am. The contractor was described as having incurred "multiple infractions" on prior occasions and was issued the first ticket.

A week later, a second ticket in the same amount was handed out when lift equipment blocked the lane behind the building at 389 Claremont, where construction is ongoing at the southeast corner of Sherbrooke. The contractor's permit to occupy public land had expired.

## No fire inside house

A smell of something burning, possibly inside a house on Lansdowne September 21, brought firefighters to check it out at 10:48 pm, Public Security officials said. The resident was assured all was in order and that the odour was coming from outside.

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Letters cont'd. from p. 25

## ANY MUNICIPAL-LEVEL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY?

I had written a few weeks ago to Westmount city hall about whether we as a city had a plan whereby we are moving towards being sustainable. I have not received a response and presume we do not have such a plan. Science has warned us that the global climate is warming and that this trend is accelerating.

Extreme events are corroborating their work. This is a global issue where municipalities can lead in countering this trend. And we, as one of the most prosperous and well-educated communities, carry a responsibility of being Canadian leaders.

We need a substantive plan with substantive financial incentives. And we need verifiable milestones that are publically posted so everyone can gauge our progress. Without such an effort against climate change, we unfortunately become tacit Trumpists.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

## MOVE THE PUZZLES

I have been speaking to various librarians and administrators at the Westmount Public Library for over a year regarding the puzzles in various stages of completion that are being constantly ripped apart.

These puzzles are donated to the library and cannot be kept in a secured location. While the table is in front of the circulation desk – which should provide some security – it is also located next to the hallway that kids must take to go downstairs. And that may be the root cause. Also, the staff is too busy to constantly watch the puzzle table.

The staff basically informed me that there is not much that they can do. One even told me that I could buy puzzles that they sell and complete it at home. To me, that won't alleviate the problem. I'm not the only one who spends hours there.

It would be nice if the table was removed from next to the hallway. Since the library seem restrained from taking corrective action, I ask all parents whose kids hang at the library to explain to them why they

shouldn't destroy puzzles.

KEVIN O'HALLORAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## LARGE-JAWED DOGS SHOULD WEAR MUZZLES

Mavis Young's letter ("No such dog as a pit bull?" August 29, p. 6) was needful and substantial, but the outlawing of pit bull-type dogs alone is not enough when you care to notice the deadly anatomical factor common among diverse breeds. Those dogs with large jaws, which are powerful enough to cause serious damage, should be strictly controlled, if not banned.

There's nothing *ad hoc* or subjective here: just look at the jaws. At the very least, such dogs should wear muzzles whenever they're out mingling with the public.

Besides, which pet owner, however conscientious, can guarantee the good behaviour of his animal at all times? Furthermore, if that dog does kill someone, can we charge that owner with manslaughter? Will he accept that as the possible consequence of his flaunted responsibility?

A little commonsensical prevention is better than confidently assuming your pet is an angel.

L.S. CATTARINI, NDG

## Fly-bys over Westmount Park

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Two Canadian forces F18s fly over Westmount Park September 17 at 1:13 pm. It was part of several fly-bys at different altitudes. A radio station, earlier in the week, had been reporting that the aircraft would be flying over the Alouettes game against Ottawa at the Molson Stadium that day.

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# Command and control



In recent issues, several letter writers have expressed an interest in synchronizing Westmount's traffic lights, but how many Westmounters have ever seen inside one of the control boxes? The photo at left was taken at Lansdowne, Glen Rd. and St. Catherine St. on September 15. At least one box has grown in size over the Independent's lifetime. The centre photo of the one at Victoria Ave. and de Maisonneuve was published in our November 7, 2007 edition and the photo at right of the same pole was taken on September 18.

Photos: Westmount Independent.

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## 50th anniversary party too noisy

A party on Edgemoor generated two noise complaints Saturday into Sunday September 23-24, Public Security officials said. The outside event included tents whose installation had been approved by the city. Public safety officers reported about 100 guests were in attendance but moved in-

side after a DJ announced the anniversary cake was about to be served. Police were also on the scene.

Another complaint was received early Sunday about music from a party at an apartment on Lansdowne. It was also toned down.

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# Soutar pavilion unveiled at The Study



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

cluded Lori Baird, Barb Osler, Joan Ivory and daughter Sarah Ivory, Josée Dancause and Michel Kaine, Yael Benguigui and Adrien Maas (whose daughter Vivian Maas is Study head girl), Erika Florès and Louis Ludwick, former Study head Eve Marshall, Lucille Raikes and Andrew Sofin, George Morin (whose daughter Andreeanne Morin, a Study grad, is an Olympic silver medalist in rowing), Heidi Higgins, Sheila and Michael Hayes with daughter Study Old Girl Samantha Hayes, Jewel and Paul Lowenstien, Barbara Whitley (class of '36) and Jean-Guy Desjardins, co-chair of The Study's Dare to Dream Campaign.

Also amidst the chic group were Chris Manfredi, McGill University provost, Maria and Vince Guzzo, and Ian Aitken and Mary Leslie.

Study head of school Nancy Sweer welcomed guests and introduced board chair James McDonald, who addressed the crowded room as did Bill Molson, Study Foundation chair.

The Study's "Gratefulness" video featured charming snippets of students' and teachers' comments praising the school. The evening was beautifully organized by The Study's Katie Kostiuk (Class of '96) and Susan Orr-Mongeau, director com-

Many Westmounters made their way on a sizzling "summer night" (in mid September!) to #1 Braeside Place. (Many were overheard discussing how they were still harvesting tomatoes, but I digress.) The Study was holding its donor recognition evening, as well as unveiling the Soutar Science and Performing Arts Pavilion.

Part of The Study building was re-named the Soutar Pavilion in honour of local resident Ian Soutar, who passed away last year. His wife Helgi and daughter Annabel were there for the tribute as was his granddaughter Ella, a grade 9 student.

Donors had the opportunity to admire lovely porcelain trilliums in recognition of their support. Names in many languages reflected the school's diverse population. (A trillium is part of the school crest.)

Westmounters enjoying local caterer Simply Wonderful's hors d'oeuvres in-



From left: Annabel Soutar, Helgi Soutar and Ella Ivanovici.

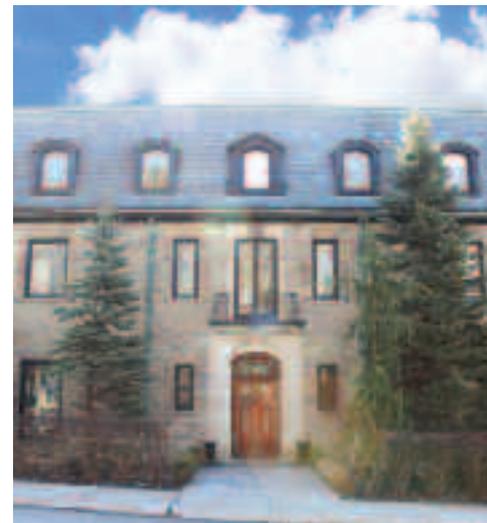
munications, who commented that the school "is now financially autonomous."

See p. 30 for more photos.

Please send information on your fall fundraising gala/event to [redgrave@videotron.ca](mailto:redgrave@videotron.ca).



From left: James McDonald, Nancy Sweer and Bill Molson.



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From left: Derek and Geneviève Vincent, Michel Kaine, Josée Dancause and Jean-Guy Desjardins.



Adrien Maas and Yael Benguigui.



From left: Jewel and Paul Lowenstein, and Joan Ivory.



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From left: Heidi Higgins, Michael and Sheila and daughter Samantha Hayes.

## Chimney work, sandblasting, stopped on weekend

Work on a chimney was stopped September 23 on Edgehill, Public Security officials said. Workers were “reminded” the city did not allow the use of heavy machinery on a weekend. The contractor asked for, and was granted, 10 minutes to clean up just after 8 am. At 1:46 pm, the use of a compressor for sandblasting concrete at a building on St. Catherine was also stopped.

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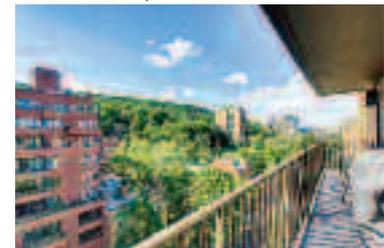
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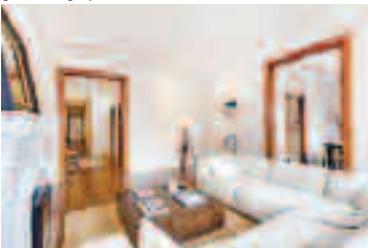
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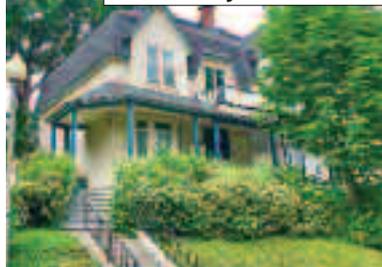
Edouard  
Gamache

ANOTHER JUST LISTED!



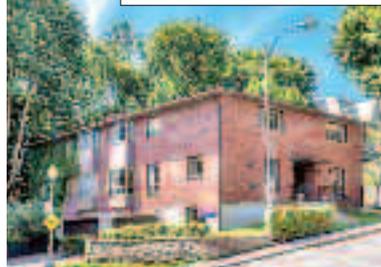
Westmount, 4338 Westmount Ave.  
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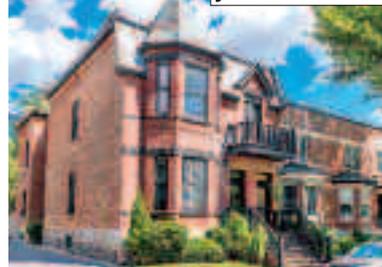
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BEST block on THE best street! Exquisite 4+1 bdr 1910 built DETACHED home. High ceilings, sun filled rooms! Central A/C, 2 car garage. IMPECCABLE! **\$2,500,000**



3577 Atwater Ave. #517  
Gorgeous 2 bdr, 2 bthrm 1,480 sf. corner unit at the Fort de la Montagne. High end recent renovations. Hardwood floors. Garage. BEST VALUE in the building! **\$599,000**



Westmount, 815 Upper Lansdowne  
Privilege & Privacy! Stately 5 bdr residence on 15,250 sq ft of land. Impressive views. Central A/C. 2 garage + pkg. **\$15,000 mo.**

SOLD! NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENT



Westmount, 409 Clarke Ave.  
The perfect Executive rental. Fully renovated, detached 4 + 1 bedrooms, 3½ bathroom home. Ideal walking distance to schools + downtown. **\$7,000 month**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 468 Wood Ave.  
Absolutely BEAUTIFUL, spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2nd floor condo. Fabulous renos. Terrace. Loaded with charm! **\$629,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 646 Lansdowne Ave.  
EXCEPTIONALLY lovely, fully renovated (sparing no expense) 4 bdr home in MOVE-IN condition! Garage. **\$1,750,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 11 Burton Ave.  
One of the LOVELIEST, most solid homes to come along in a long time in the Victoria Village! **\$919,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD BY BRIAN!



Westmount, 39 Thornhill Ave.  
PRIME location! Exquisite 5 bdr 1873 heritage property. IMMACULATE move-in condition! Tastefully renovated & restored. Lovely VIEWS! 2 car tandem garage. **\$1,525,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



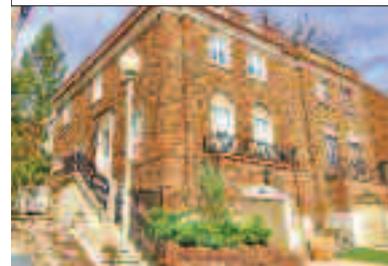
Westmount, 421 Argyle Ave.  
EXTREMELY spacious, bright, BEAUTIFUL 4+1 bdr Victorian home. Fully renovated, exquisite details. Spacious, sun filled kitchen, gorgeous bathrooms. 4 car pkg. **\$1,965,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 792 Upper Lansdowne Ave.  
PRIME location! exceptional 4+1 bdr home in move-in condition. Gorgeous bathrooms, high end kitchen, spectacular dinette/solarium, fabulous terrace. **\$1,550,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD BY BRIAN!



Westmount, 65 Thornhill Ave.  
A beautiful, 1925 built home ideally situated on peaceful, sought after Thornhill Ave. Desirable cross hall plan. **\$1,298,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 109 Sunnyside Ave.  
Quality built 6 bdr home in great condition! Garage + parking. **\$1,365,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



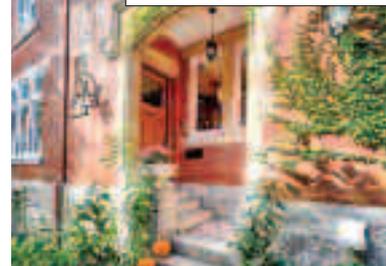
Westmount, 10 Belvedere Rd.  
Majestic 5+ bdr DETACHED home. **\$1,595,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD BY BRIAN!



Westmount, 494 Argyle Ave.  
RARELY available + HIGHLY desirable! **\$1,565,000**

SUCCESSFULLY SOLD!



Westmount, 520 Argyle Ave.  
Majestically positioned overlooking the southern slope of Westmount, this handsome 1906 heritage home retains all of it's EXQUISITE original character. **\$2,350,000**

**CONSISTENTLY TOP 10 BROKER FOR RE/MAX QUEBEC\***