

Departure of congregation takes council by surprise

Future of St. Stephen's site, Open Door uncertain

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council appeared to be taken by surprise January 16 by news the congregation of St. Stephen's Anglican Church had recently merged with St. James the Apostle, now called St. Jax.

"That's breaking news," declared Mayor Peter Trent when raised by Dorchester resident Cary Leclaire. "Thanks for letting us know."

The departure of the congregation leaves the future of the heritage landmark at Atwater and Dorchester up in the air, as well

as that of The Open Door, which has operated there for almost 30 years as a drop-in centre for homeless people in the area.

The merger and departure of the congregation took effect January 1, ending the regular Sunday services, according to Bill Gray, the executive archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal.

"We're in the process of deciding the future of St. Stephen's," he told the *Independent*. "We'll be considering any and all options." He declined to say whether this meant selling or repurposing the site.

Groups such as The Open Door and AA that use St. Stephen's will carry on there "for the time being," Gray explained, though he *continued on p. 6*

Celebrating Irene Marks at 100



Photo courtesy of Karin

Among those at the birthday celebration January 14 for centenarian Irene Marks, seated, were, from left: Babs Shapiro Comte, Nesya Shapiro Blue, Judy Shapiro Knight, Karin Marks, Isobel Marks, Anne MacCormack Roxburgh, Bryan MacCormack and Ross MacCormack. See p. 11.

Letters p. 8

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 9

November 5, 2017 municipal election

Smith, Lulham in – Forbes out

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This being an election year, who will or will not be looking to return to the Westmount council table? Three of the eight councillors declared their intentions last week when asked by the *Independent*: Christina Smith and Cynthia Lulham enthusiastically said they would seek another term in their respective districts.

Only Nicole Forbes, on the other hand, stated she would not be running for what would be a fourth term. "This means my

District 6 is free," she explained. "I hope that a community-oriented, totally bilingual younger person than me will represent this terrific ward."

While Rosalind Davis said she was "certainly tempted" to run, others including Mayor Peter Trent said they were either undecided or it was too soon to declare and commit.

"I think announcing this early," he said, "turns a good part of one's last year of a four-year mandate into election mode, and away *continued on p. 7*



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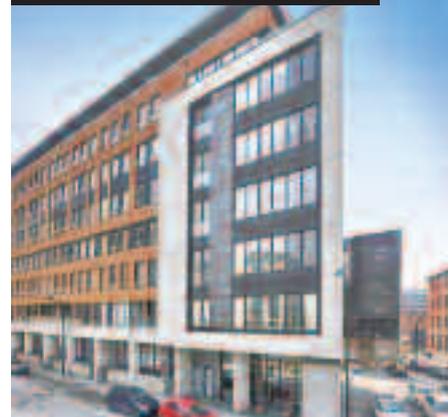
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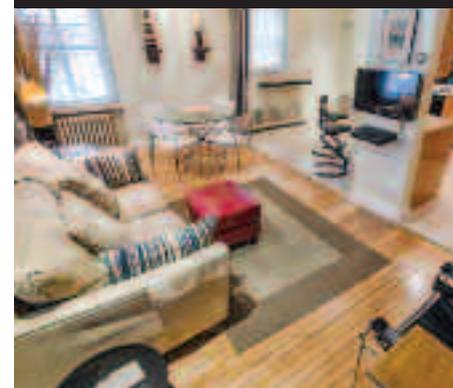
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Councillors speak out on what's up for 2017

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What challenges and changes can residents expect in the year ahead? Here's how the city's eight councillors see the year shaping up in their respective districts and beyond.

District 1: Councillor Patrick Martin

Work around the summit will continue with the refurbishment of Summit Woods, the permanent road closure of Summit Circle at the north side and the conversion to a gravel walking path of Summit Cresc. (Devon to the Oratory). The water main will be replaced on Sunnyside (Upper Roslyn to Lexington), and planning will start for the reconstruction challenge of the steep portion of Belvedere Rd. down to Côte des Neiges. In his Public Works commissionership, Martin says the city's accelerated updating of infrastructure work will move forward to include city buildings.

District 2: Councillor Philip Cutler

The reconstruction of Westmount Ave. from Victoria to the east side of Claremont will be the main highlight. As Public Security commissioner, he foresees improvement in traffic light synchronization with the introduction of adaptive traffic controls.

District 3: Councillor Victor Drury

There are still small issues in this district to work on, Drury says. Among them: the speeding of cars on Montrose and parking problems emanating mainly from the proximity of Dawson College. As Finance commissioner, Drury says the city is heading into 2017 in sound shape leading to a second consecutive year for owners of single-family dwellings to receive tax bills whose average represents zero increase.

District 4: Councillor Rosalind Davis

"I'm really excited that we're finally getting the new bus shelter installed at Grosvenor and Sherbrooke, and that we'll be opening the splash pad in Prince Albert Park," Davis says. There is still work for the contractor to follow up on after the reconstruction of Prince Albert Ave. "The residents put up with a lot of disruption with difficulty accessing their homes and cars, and damage to their property." If the proposed redevelopment of 500 Claremont goes ahead, it will be challenging for the neighbourhood, she says. As a member of the Community Events Advisory Committee, she says the city will be celebrating both the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge and Canada's 150th anniversary. Residents can also look forward to a new "state-of-the-art" large screen for Victoria Hall for the showing of films.

District 5: Councillor Christina Smith

Identifying ways in which her ward may be affected, Smith includes an expected submission of a new plan to redevelop the site at 4898 de Maisonneuve, corner Prince Albert, as well as a potential go-ahead by the city of Montreal for the building of the Proviso/seniors' complex just west of Claremont on de Maisonneuve. A long-awaited trucking route should be going into effect to protect small Victoria village streets from being used as shortcuts, and a number of residents can look forward to a reduction in noise from emissions from the super-hospital. A solution must be found, she says, to overcrowding at École St. Léon in District 6, which is forcing some children living west of Victoria into an NDG school district.

District 6: Nicole Forbes
"I have been working on continued on p. 7

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Council asked to clarify snow removal info after car towed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Stayner Ave. resident Jack Locke asked city council January 16 to review its by-laws and website information so as to provide “advance notice” of snow removal operations before cars are ticketed and, in a recent case, towed.

He said he had parked a car on Stayner the previous week at 1 pm without seeing any snow removal signage but at 8 am the next morning the car had “vanished in less than 24 hours.” He said he had consulted

the city’s website, which advised people to check for signage daily but “unfortunately, that was not adequate.”

It turns out, the *Independent* discovered, that inconsistent messages under different “Resident Zone” menus carried different information. One, apparently the webpage consulted by Locke, had simply advised motorists to check for snow removal signs “daily.”

The other, which more accurately reflected reality, according to Public Security officials, advised drivers to look out for the

orange signs “before 7 am.”

The discrepancy was corrected the day after the council meeting so that both now read:

“Westmount personnel will install the signs at least 12 hours before snow removal begins, giving drivers ample time to move their parked vehicles before snow removal operations get under way. Please check your street daily before 7 am following any heavy snowfall, as vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed.”

Public Security officials also told the *Independent* that time was of the essence when clearing after a snowfall, and people needed to be able to park. If the orange signs were to be installed as far ahead as 24 hours, drivers would assume they could not park there the whole day before because the signs prohibit parking between 7 am and 7 pm.

Because only holders of 24-hour parking stickers are allowed to park on city streets overnight, officials said they call the holders of these permits early the next morning “as a courtesy” to alert them to the signs in the event they may have parked before the signs were installed.

The city’s traffic By-law 726 (sections 5

and 6) authorizes traffic officers “to remove or cause to be removed” any vehicles parked in a prohibited area.

The typical ticket for towing from a snow removal zone costs \$108: a fine of \$45, an administration fee of \$13 and a \$50 cost for towing.



Jack Locke asks council January 16 for more advance notice of snow removal operations and was told the city would “get back” to him.



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Mood of the Market

Nov., Dec. sales: High volume to close out 2016



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in December 2016. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

A strong November followed by a relaxed December rounded out the year 2016

in Westmount real estate, with 22 sales representing the biggest volume for November since 2001 but only seven more sales posted in December.

The November list includes one sale at \$5 million, two more in the \$3-million range and two more between \$2 and \$3 million. Only three of the 22 were for less than \$1 million, and only four sold for less than their 2014 municipal evaluation. The average mark-up over valuation was 8.3 percent, higher than October but lower than September, and in fact one of the lowest-priced sales of the month was a strong 47 percent more than its city tax value.

December, on the other hand, included two sales under \$1 million and only one more than \$2 million, three mark-downs

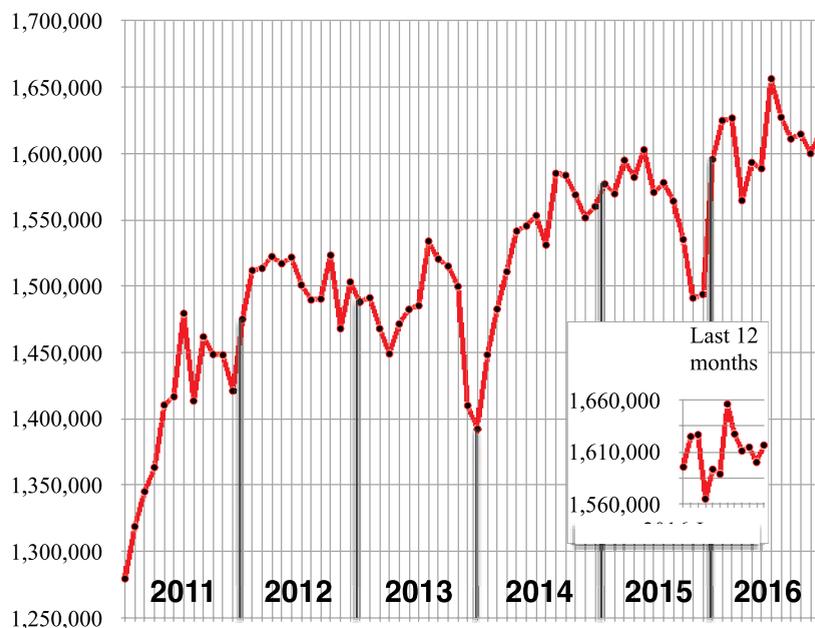
and a 5.5-percent average mark-up. Perhaps the most significant fact for December is that the lowest price was \$955,000, an indication that there is not much now selling in Westmount below \$1 million.

The high volume in November helped boost total volume for the year to 193 one- and two-family dwellings, the highest annual volume since 1999, when the average price was just \$556,656 compared to \$1,592,491 in 2016.

In fact, market interest appears to have shifted to adjacent-Westmount areas, which tallied eight sales in December following nine in November, mainly in the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough and with most prices between \$800,000 and \$1,300,000, but with one very small house on Circle Rd. at \$485,000 and another on Cedar Crescent at \$2,430,000.

Meanwhile, the number of available houses in Westmount has dropped to 67 from 113 as recently as last October, an indication buyers, having bought up most of the Westmount market, will soak up what they can in adjacent-Westmount areas before shifting to a higher price range in Westmount *continued on p. 7*

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, Jan. 2011 – Dec. 2016, based on accepted offer dates



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St. Stephen's congregants merge

cont'd. from p. 1

would not commit to any timeframe. Leclaire had told the council that "the word on the street" was that the groups had been given six months.

Another denomination that had been holding services there had moved elsewhere a while ago, Gray said. This was the Calvary Chapel Montreal Regeneration.

Looking for a new home

Jason Baxendale, chair of The Open

Door's board and a Westmount resident, said the drop-in centre was actively looking for other premises in the area.

"We would like to stay where we are, but the only way would be if another church moved, in which is highly unlikely," he said. "It would be logical," he added, for the Anglican Church, which has taken over the building, to put it up for sale.

On the other hand, he said, "We're looking at this as an opportunity for betterment. If we abandon our clientele, they

will be on the street." The Open Door can serve up to 150 homeless a day, providing counselling, food, clothing and shelter from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Logical to sell

When the building's future was raised during the question period by Leclaire, District 8 councillor Theodora Samiotis acknowledged she had learned about the merger over the weekend from the former minister Nick Brotherhood, whom she had seen "at the [Westmount] library" but had not yet told the council. Brotherhood is now assisting at St. Mary's Church in Kirkland.

The decision by St. Stephen's to merge with St. Jax, was described in an "internal" email newsletter "as being in the best interests of the St. Stephen's community." A year ago, it explained, the parish had "initiated a process of research, reflection and

much consultation regarding the sustainability and future of our parish."

Trent told the council meeting the trend toward the repurposing of religious buildings was the reason the city had launched a study of its 13 houses of worship (see story September 8, 2015, p. 10). It remains in development though an analysis of their heritage value and their services to the community had been completed.

The Open Door was started in 1988 by a member of St. Stephen's and now lists many partners on its website including the city of Westmount. Built in 1903 at 4006 Dorchester, St. Stephen's is a Category I heritage-rated building which means it is considered "important," according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

A large parish hall at the rear was previously demolished due to deteriorating conditions.



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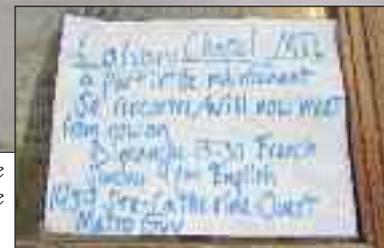
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St. Stephen's looking southwest, January 20. Inset: A note by Calvary Chapel Montreal Regeneration was left on the door of the rectory of St. Stephen's on Weredale Park.

Photos: Westmount Independent



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What's up for 2017

cont'd. from p. 3

a cultural policy for the past months and hope that it will be adopted before the end of this term,” says Forbes, the commissioner of Culture and Community Events. “We hope to start re-energizing the merchants on Greene Ave. by hiring an economic development consultant; also that a solution to the overcrowding of École St. Léon can be found.”

District 7: Cynthia Lulham

Traffic changes will include the synchronization of traffic lights on St. Catherine and the moving of lights from Abbott to Melville. Abbott is to be made one-way south and Hillside one-way east to Metcalfe – all to reduce speeding on both streets, Lulham says. Planning will also continue to enable the building of a “living” or vegetative wall along the railway tracks to reduce the noise of wheel/rail interface. An economic development advisor for the city’s commercial districts is to be hired to improve business for merchants, including St. Catherine St. As commissioner of Sustainability and Parks, Lulham lists the refurbishing of Summit Woods and Westmount Park and the start of greenhouse restoration.

District 8: Theodora Samiotis

Turcot disruptions will continue to impact the district along with the possible redevelopment of the former site of the Montreal Children’s Hospital at Westmount’s eastern border. Residents can also expect to receive more details on creating a vision for the southeast sector. There is also hope for advancing the sound barrier project. A new dimension includes the as-yet unknown effect of the move of the congregation from St. Stephen’s Church, the possible relocation of The Open Door and of the continuing phase-out of the Module du Nord from the Y residence on Tupper to Dorval.

Realization of goals leaves ‘communication’ to come: Trent

With the entire city as his “district,” Mayor Peter Trent lists improvement of the city’s communication with residents as a main goal of this council that is yet to be completed. Increasing the autonomy of Hydro Westmount is another. “We also need a city policy to deal with the condo craze,” he says.

Other goals have been or are being implemented by the council’s various commissioners.

On communication, he says: “To engage more of the public, we need to reach out. What is on the mind of most Westmounters? Are those whom we hear from representative of the larger public? More polls are needed to measure the pulse of Westmounters.”

Implementation of Charbonneau recommendations are also needed. Can the city reclaim any overcharging that may be found to have stemmed from collusion? This is another question to be answered, he says.

As president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, “I would like to change the agglomeration’s governance and funding,” he explains. “I negotiated the water/centre ville deal with Mayor [Denis] Coderre, now we should look at the agglomeration council and the way it functions.”

Real estate cont'd. from p. 5

proper. Needless to say, there is a great deal of interest to buy downtown property, which should bode well for the upcoming spring season.

Volume also increased in Westmount’s condominium sales market and mark-ups increased from an average 5.6 percent in the third quarter of 2016 to 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter, but the average for the entire year is only 3.3 percent in 40 sales, down from 6.3 percent in 27 sales in 2015. Of the 13 condo sales in the fourth quarter last year, only one was negotiated in December compared to eight in November and four in October.

Mark-ups and mark-downs, it should be noted, are based on municipal evaluations for the old valuation roll published in 2014. The newest roll – on which this year’s taxes will be based – came into effect as of January 1 of this year and will be used for future comparisons.

While the seven December sales showed an average mark-up of 5.5 percent for the old roll, for example, the average compared to the 2017 roll is virtual parity.

Election cont'd. from p. 1

from management mode. In my view, we were not elected to spend 10 months politicking or preening for the public.” It would be his sixth mayoral term if he ran and won.

In the case of Lulham, already a six-term veteran, her decision is based on wanting “to see through” two important three-year projects as commissioner of Sustainability and Parks: restoration of the greenhouses and refurbishment of Westmount Park. Smith, has “thoroughly enjoyed” her first term, she said. “Yes, I would like to serve the city,” for a second one.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOORAY FOR DAWSON CROSSWALK

[Last] week, I was pleased to see additional safety features added to the new crosswalk between Dawson College and Alexis Nihon Plaza.

It also occurred to me that I never publicly thanked the city of Westmount for installing this long-awaited pedestrian passage!

A little background: I have been working at the college for over a decade. After almost getting hit by a car (again) last spring while making my way over to the mall, I decided to put up a petition requesting the installation of a crosswalk.

Within 24 hours of getting the word out, almost 800 people had signed it. Hearing about the campaign, Amanda Jelowicki from Global News got in touch with city councillor Cynthia Lulham and...the wheels were set in motion. There would be a crosswalk by September. And there was!

On behalf of Dawson College, I would like to thank everyone involved in getting this project "on" the ground, especially the director of Public Works, Patrick Raggo, who coordinated it all and kept us up to date on the progression of the crosswalk.

Thank you!

We are a community of 10,000 students and staff working and learning on this beautiful, awesome campus. There are so many reasons to love Dawson College. Having the city of Westmount step up and make us all a little safer is one more cause for warm fuzzies.

KINGA BREINING, SUPPORT STAFF,
DAWSON COLLEGE

DAYCARE DROP-OFF ZONES LONG TIME COMING

This letter is in response to Councillor Christina Smith's, published January 17 ("Daycare parking discussed," p. 6), on the issue of reserved drop-off parking zones in front of daycares.

I applaud her and the council's interest that "the littlest students in the city are as safe as possible." However, these sentiments are rather disingenuous when one considers that some of the existing daycares have operated in Westmount for at least 30 years and only now, in 2017, have finally obtained these parking zones.

Requests over the years were ignored. When I had difficulty dropping off grandchildren at their daycare, I raised the issue

about a year and half ago through the proper channel, asking that all daycares receive such zones. When a length of time passed and I had not had a response, I asked Councillor Patrick Martin to bring this urgent matter before the council.

I wish to thank those councillors and the staff who expedited this important safety measure. I commend Councillor Smith for reminding the readers to exercise caution when dropping off and picking up their children.

TOBY MORANTZ, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

KEEP EFFORTS GOING TO GET SOUND BARRIER

Concerning the letter submitted to the *Independent* ("Article 'glosses over' sound barrier situation," November 29, p. 6), from my neighbour on Bruce, I was disappointed how the principal message was overshadowed by the side discussion included in the letter between the *Independent* and author. By doing this, I felt the key message was lost on an issue that has been going on for over 30 years.

For years, we have been looking to have a sound barrier for the residents south of Dorchester to block the sound from the highway. The frustration from my neighbour, and myself is coming from the fact that the new Turcot has no plan to build a barrier on the highway despite knowing this issue was ongoing. Plus, the residents had voiced already that this would be their preferred solution.

To add insult to injury, they will be building sound barriers on other portions of the new highway except on our area. Who is to blame? Many levels of government and citizens for not getting involved in the scoping of the Turcot project.

We have to move forward and not dwell on the past, as there is still time to find a solution to integrate a sound barrier as the new Turcot is only to be completed by 2020. If we don't find a solution now, I can assure you that the sound-barrier issue will continue to come up where time and effort, as well as taxpayers' money, will be used to mull over different solutions with dead-ends.

As part of the Comité de bon voisinage NDG-Westmount, I invite all public to the next Meeting on Monday, January 30 at 7 pm at Westmount city hall to have an update of the construction of the Turcot project and bring forward any issues.

MICHAEL MOSSOP, COLUMBIA AVE.

PUSSYHAT PROJECT IN WESTMOUNT

It was great to see this long-time Westmounter supporting the Women's March on Washington January 21.

My daughter and I were on our way home from the rally at Place des Arts, and he kindly agreed to pose for a photo. He seemed very disturbed by the news of the world. When I asked him for his thoughts, he simply muttered, "Might must not make right."

TIM BRIERLEY, CHESTERFIELD AVE.



Statue as seen on Sherbrooke, near Greene, January 21. Photo courtesy of Hanako Brierley

Car hits man crossing Greene on the green

A Montreal man was taken to hospital January 13 after being hit by a car at Greene and de Maisonneuve at 11:58 am, Public Security officials said. He was found lying on the ground in pain with what appeared to be a fracture of the leg. The man had been crossing on the green light when the driver was reported by a witness to have cut in front of a truck as she turned off de Maisonneuve.

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LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

St. Mary's hospital holds La Scala Soirée

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

night supported by titans of industry, such as Westmount res **Angie** and **Tony Lof-freda**, VP, RBC Royal Bank; McCarthy Tétrault partner and SMH Foundation board member **Patrick Shea** attending with **Laurie Birbilas**; recently retired Bell Canada CFO **Siim Vanaselja** and his wife **Mary**; **Peter Kruyt**, VP, Power Corporation; **Véronique Pourcelet** and **Martin Szpiro**; Fednav CFO/senior VP **Paul Setlakwe** and

his wife **Dominique Lanctôt**; and **Meryl** and **Sheldon El-man**, chief Medisys Health Group.

Also noted in the crowd were provincial legislators **Kathleen Weil** (with her husband **Michael Novak**) and **Hélène David**; **Lynne** and **Paul Stinis**, senior VP, Bell Canada; long-time SMH supporters **Carolyn** and **Rick Renaud** and son **Paul Renaud** (with his wife **Jennifer Kaminski**) and daughter **Rachel Renaud**, Roasters Foundation director/SMH board member; and **Diane** and **Norman Hébert**, president/CEO of Groupe Park Avenue.

Committee members were fundraising chair **Josée Noiseux** (with husband **Bertrand Cesvet**), **Arthur Wechsler** and his wife **Arielle Meloul-Wechsler**, **Curtis Millen** (attending with his wife **Holly Simpson**), **Mario Rigante**, **Dorine Perron** (with husband **Martin Cauchon**), **Doug Buchanan** (with wife **Marion**



From left: Anne-Marie Boucher, Calin and Elaine Rovinescu, and Mitch Garber.



Geneviève Charette, left, and Cynda Heward.

On November 4, the elegant extravagance of La Scala, the famed Milanese opera house, was the theme of the St. Mary's Hospital (SMH) ball. The 79th annual fundraiser for the SMH Foundation was held at Windsor Station, transformed by **Bridget Fetterly**. Westmounters **Elaine** and **Calin Rovinescu**, president/CEO Air Canada, were co-chairs of the sold-out eve.

Emcee was local res **Mitch Garber**, who introduced speakers including his wife **Anne-Marie Boucher**, foundation board chair; board of governors chair **Terry Didus** and foundation president/CEO **Cynda Heward**.

The Italianate opulence of the theme was carried out with brocade tablecloths, gold-rimmed wine glasses and the ornamental power of tassels, long-loved by Roman emperors as a symbol of power and prestige, which was appropriate for such a

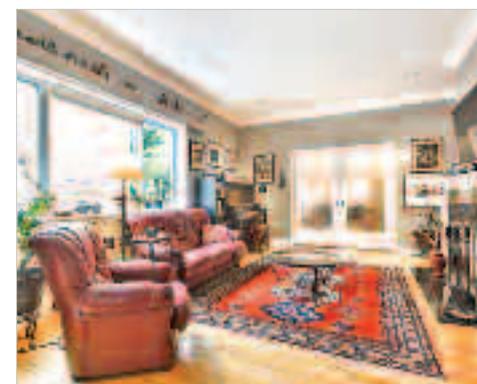
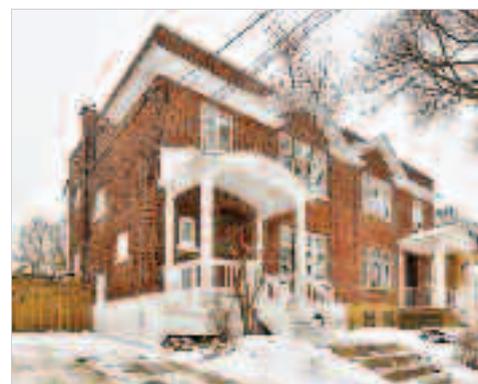
Lefebvre), **Guy Laframboise** (with **Vanessa**), **Sylvie Chagnon** (with husband **Jean Chagnon**), **Stephen Kelly** (with wife **Lindsay Matthews**), **Bambina Marcello** (with husband **Anthony Pagano**), **Geneviève** continued on p. 10

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 9

Charette, Mario Rigante and Peter Thompson (with wife Laurie).

Paired with SAQ-sponsored wines, ristorante Beatrice served a *delizioso* Italian menu. Owner **Pino Forgiione** attended with his wife **Debra Margles**. Guests loved the cannoli served by Café Gentile, one wag commenting that it was “far more delicious than the famed *dolce* served in *The Godfather* – and less dangerous!”

Gorgeous black tulle skirts fluttered on ballet dancers from Manina Productions,



From left: Rick and Carolyn Renaud, Jennifer Kaminski, and Paul Renaud.



Bertrand Cesvet and Josée Noiseux.

who performed as did the “living statues” à la *una piazza italiana* – complete with a pigeon on one statue’s head!

SMH communications head **Cindy Aikman** announced the eve raised \$1,158,125 for renovations of the cancer patient and palliative care fifth floor. *Bravissimo!*



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Petition of 245 presented to council on Dorchester

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A petition signed by 245 was presented to city council January 16 in requests to the city by a group of residents in the Dorchester neighbourhood to not narrow the street or remove the median or the curve near Clarke. It also asks for any new buildings to be built on the north side to be limited to a maximum of three storeys.

The petition arose from the city's preliminary plan for Dorchester as part of a vision for the southeast sector of the city and at least two neighbourhood consulta-

tion meetings last year.

"We do not agree with the vision for the southeast project," said Dorchester resident Tony Kez in presenting the petition. The preamble also asks for an eventual bicycle path, and that in any development of the north side of Dorchester 35 percent of the surface area be allocated to green space and that buildings be "in keeping with the architectural integrity of the south side."

George Vesnaver also presented an analysis he had prepared of a city survey on "The Narrowing of Dorchester" in 2014 based on the opinions of 115 residents of

whom "23 were located on Dorchester," he explained.

The survey, obtained through access to information, he said, indicated that reducing the width of Dorchester was considered less important than other questions such as traffic calming, a sense of security and developing green space.

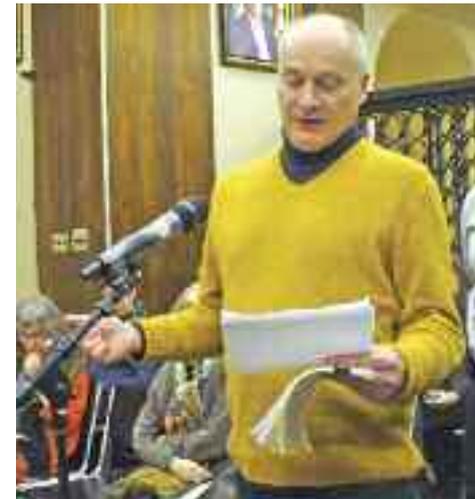
Kathleen Kez told Samiotis she had been reported as saying the need to narrow Dorchester had come from the survey. Kez had asked for a copy of the survey (see story December 14, p. 5).

Narrowing slows speed

Samiotis later told the *Independent* it had indeed been one of the categories on the online survey and had been ranked fourth after traffic calming and speeding but one of the traditional ways of slowing traffic was to reduce width.

Patricia Dumais of Greene said she didn't understand what the "urgency" was to come up with a vision and plan for Dorchester when the area was currently under siege by Turcot and facing development of the former Montreal Children's site.

"All the more reason why we have to come up with a vision – conceptualize," Mayor Peter Trent said. As well, Samiotis



Tony Kez reads council the preamble to the petition he then presented January 16.

pointed out that both St. Catherine and Dorchester were in bad shape and had to be redone. "I agree we have to have an idea," Dumais said.

Cary Leclaire, a resident of Dorchester, said he had lived on the street 18 years and "it is urgent that the street is cleaned up."

Samiotis said she hoped the next public consultation meeting would take place "in the next few weeks" and thanked everyone for their interest.

Irene Marks turns 100

Celebration reunites neighbours who grew up together

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 100th birthday celebration for longtime Westmount resident Irene Marks not only reunited some 35 to 40 members of her family and friends from afar but also brought together three families that had grown up adjacent to each other on Grosvenor and Victoria south of The Boulevard.

Among them were her two daughters, a granddaughter and her only great-granddaughter. They also included members of the Shapiro and MacCormack families, neighbours who had become best friends.

"We realized we hadn't seen each other as a group for about 60 years," said former Westmount mayor Karin Marks, who along with her sister Isobel, hosted the celebration for their mother January 14.

At the celebrant's request, there was no traditional cake but she stayed throughout the event from 2 pm to 11 pm, which took place at the Lansdowne home of Karin and Brian Puddington.

Sue Anne Puddington, one of her two granddaughters, presented a toast while her only great grandchild, Kiley Savage, helped her celebrate.

Marks, who has recovered from a fall last year in which she broke her wrist, pelvis and hip, has since returned to her own apartment in Westmount, continuing to live independently and pursuing most of her regular activities.

Marks told the *Independent* she had told her daughters she didn't want a party because she didn't want people who might not know each other "to be bored." As it turned out, however, they had known each

other and herself and "I could feel the real warmth," she said, adding, "You know, a lot of flattering things can be said in a lifetime that are politesse."

Defied Nazis

Born in Dresden, Germany, Marks survived the fires and round-ups of Jews on Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass (November 9, 1938), but she was forced to quit school. It was while working at a rest-cure centre that she contemplated poisoning Hitler when he visited it. But as the only Jewish person there, she said, she feared retaliation against everyone would ensue. Marks and her parents fled to Canada at the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 when she was 22.

Well-known for her strong will and perseverance, she immersed herself in community leadership and contribution (see profile, November 18, 2008, p. 18). While in her late 80s, she was still driving voters to the polls and volunteering at Meals on Wheels.

"There was a certain pleasure in doing things for other people," she explained last week. "I have no respect for leading useless lives."

Marks and her late husband, Lawrence, raised their daughters on Grosvenor in a house attached to that of the Shapiros, and they became best friends. The Marks' backyard abutted the MacCormacks on Victoria so all the children went back and forth.

"This made the celebration very special," Marks said.

See p. 1 for photo.

Davis, 100, gives award in her name

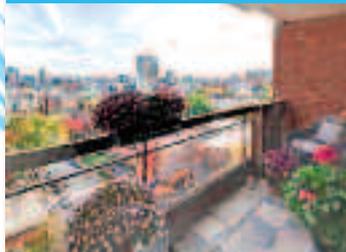


A special award named after a resident of Manoir Westmount was given out December 13 at the residence by Marianne Davis, its namesake, in honour of her 100th birthday. Davis, (holding yellow card) celebrated her centennial in September 2016. A retired elementary school educational consultant from the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal (now the English Montreal School Board), Davis was a founding member of Delta Kappa Gamma Quebec (DKG Quebec), established 60 years ago to promote the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. To commemorate its 60th anniversary, DKG Quebec renamed its Early Educator Award in Davis' honour. She presented the 2016 Marianne Davis Early Educator Award, to Carissa Valente (far left) of Bancroft Elementary School. Last year's award winner, music teacher Caroline Derome (second from left) played her flute, and a choir from Westmount Park elementary school, whose students (standing), gave a short performance.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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