

Sports and Rec's sign-up starts Feb. 12

Coding for kids, sing-along for seniors added to line-up

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In what might be considered a harbinger of spring, Sports and Recreation registration begins February 12 to give Westmount residents a head start before the activities for April to August are opened to all. At least two new programs are among those offered.

These are computer coding for youth aged 5-7 and 8-12 and a weekly "fun senior sing-a-long," according to the line-up in the brochure that was to appear in print form January 31.

As well, tennis lessons are being offered for the first time to those aged 6 to 8.

"We're always trying to introduce something new," Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week.

An ASD (social sensory discovery) pro-

gram piloted for special needs children aged 5-11 in January with little publicity has been successful and is now being listed for the first time for the spring.

Other registration dates

A special registration time for summer camps takes place April 16. This is the most "sought after" of all the programs, Lapointe said. The two-week sessions are usually filled within an hour of the 8 am on-line registration.

Another special registration date of April 23 has been set for all youth and adult tennis lessons, as well as all swimming activities.

Describing the new computer coding program, Lapointe said this is an introduction to the language of computers aimed at show- *continued on p. 18*

'Westmount's traffic cop' Constable Goldberg retires



Constable Steven Goldberg outside Station 12 January 25. See p. 20 for story. PHOTO: LAUREEN SWEENEY.

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City seeking 'better plan' for sidewalk snow cleaning

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Much of the city's time over the last couple of weeks has been taken up with back-to-back snow and ice storms including daily debriefings and planning for the future, Mayor Christina Smith said last week.

"We've been knee deep in snow and we've been trying to figure out a better plan for the sidewalks," she explained. She

expected a full overall debriefing at the council's general committee meeting on February 4, after press time.

"With each storm, there's a lesson," she said.

From feedback she's been receiving, "the big concern was about icy sidewalks and a lack of abrasives in certain areas. Sidewalks freeze more quickly than the streets, she explained, and some private contractors *continued on p. 8*



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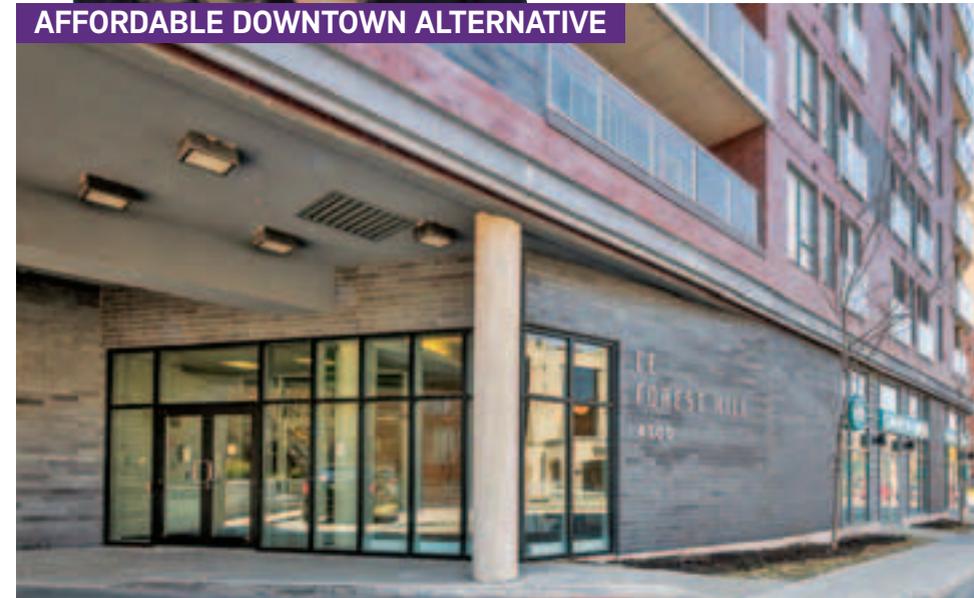


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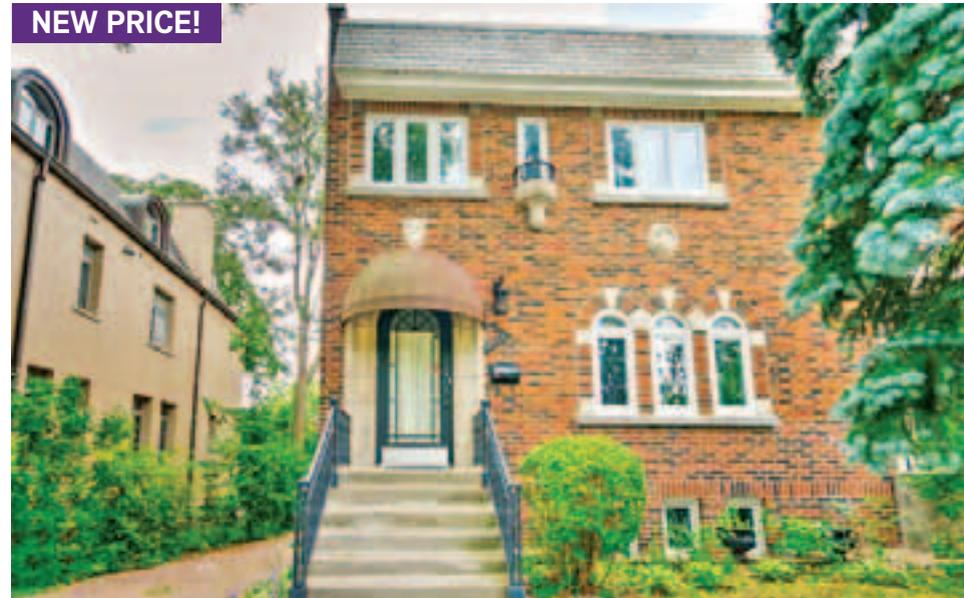
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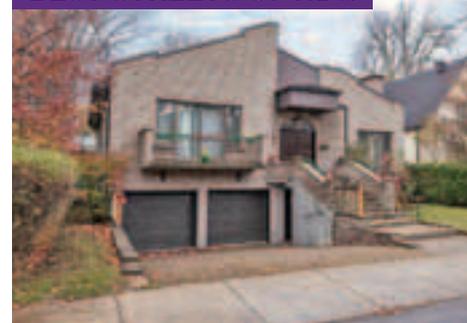
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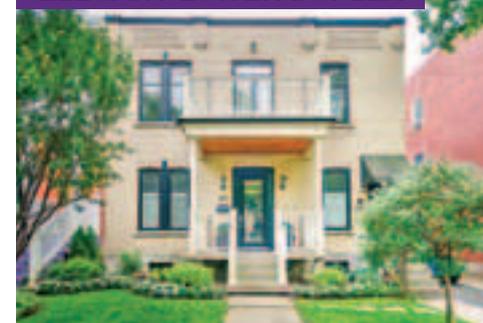
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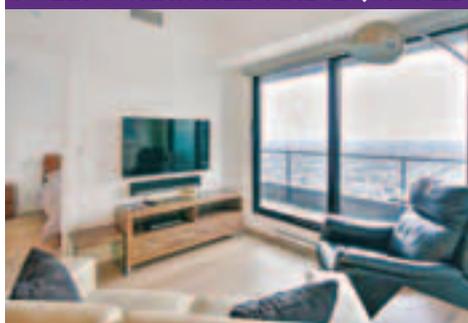
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Remembering Eleanor Porter

Eleanor Porter, a 40-year resident of Greene Ave., died on January 15 at the age of 106 in Toronto.

According to her friend, Michele Martel of Knowlton, "Having no children of her own, she devoted her life to helping others ... and she was still communicating with people in Westmount as of last week. She was completely lucid and, until her last breath, was still thinking more about others than herself. I am sure she would want the people who knew her in Westmount to be advised of her passing."



Porter was written up in the *Independent* of November 15-16, 2011 (p. 34) when she received the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association achievement award at the age of 98 as a tenant of the Wexford seniors' residence, where she was the oldest resident.

In Montreal, Porter had been active at Christ Church Cathedral and played bridge. She worked at the advertising agency Cockfield Brown in front of The Bay for many years.

Photo courtesy of Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association c. 2011.

Reading of Missuk's Snow Geese First winter StoryWalk on Feb. 7

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Library will hold the unveiling of its first winter StoryWalk Thursday, February 7 in Westmount Park at 4 pm.

The launch of the winter walk will take place along the path starting near the east entrance of the library. Here, Westmount children's author Anne Renaud will read each page of her book *Missuk's Snow Geese* as it is "unveiled" along the path when covers are removed from each of the panels along the path.

"We decided to extend the StoryWalk into the winter to let families enjoy a win-

ter-themed story while enjoying our Canadian winter," said children's librarian Wendy Wayling. "The story fit perfectly into a winter StoryWalk. We also look for books that are bilingual."

She said the story would be read outside, weather permitting. "We will then move to the Westmount Room for a craft related to the story and hot chocolate."

The book, published in 2008 and available at the library, relates a tale of the North about a girl called Missuk. When her father sets off to hunt caribou, she leaves the igloo and spots snow geese starting to fly back for the spring.

She makes bird imprints in the snow similar to snow "angels." Returning home as a storm blows in, she worries in her sleep about her father. On his return, he tells her how a trail of goose shapes led him safely back.

In the spring, the images on the park panels are to be replaced by images of Westmount mostly from the turn of the 20th century taken from the library's post-card collection, according to Loro Baiocco, on-line services and archives librarian.

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36 Summit Crescent, Westmount



NEW TO MARKET

\$4,495,000

43 Surrey Gardens, Westmount



\$4,495,000

3218 Cedar, Westmount



\$4,195,000

54 St. Sulpice, Westmount



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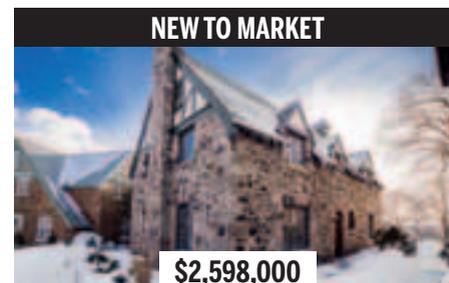
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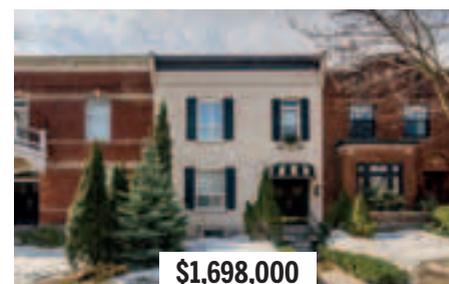
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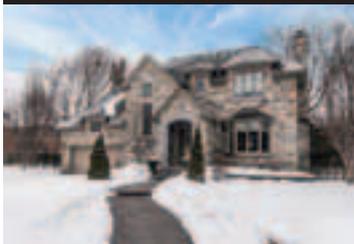
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ADVERSITY BRINGS OUT BEST

A particular shout-out of thanks to the stranger who stopped his car on Kitchen-er Ave. around 9:30 last Friday morning [January 25] to help us push our minivan out of an ice jam. We know people do this all the time, us included, but we are always impressed how, despite all the negativity one hears about nowadays, adversity continues to bring out the best in people.

WILFRID DE FREITAS & SUSAN RAVDIN,
KITCHENER AVE.

THANK YOU, KIM

I realized that I had lost my credit card pouch with my “life” in it when trying to make a purchase. I immediately returned home to begin making the phone calls to cancel all my cards and notify those that were pre-paid. My only hope was that some Good Samaritan had found the pouch with all my ID information and would phone with the great news. That is exactly what happened. She phoned the Westmount Library because she saw my card and they contacted me. I went to pick up my “life” at her home on Claremont and she totally refused any remuneration and I had to settle for just giving her a big hug.

THANK YOU, KIM!

SORYL ROSENBERG, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

THANKS FOR SPREADING THE WORD

I would like to thank the *Independent* very much for kindly offering the ad: “Have unneeded furniture? Others need it.”

As a result of the ad, I received several phone calls from people donating household items, which went to people in need. You have contributed to a worthy cause.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You and the Rotary have been great supporters. *Merci encore.*

VIVIANE AGIA, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

CLLR. BRZESKI CONDESCENDING, DICTATORIAL ON CARS

[Regarding the] increase of more than 25 percent for 24-hour parking on the street, I have had correspondence with my District 5 representative, Ms. Brzeski, that I have shared with the *Independent*, and I am wondering how a representative can be so condescending and dictatorial.

On the other hand, Mayor Christina Smith reached out to me by phone to discuss my concerns, and I have always found that she tries to do her best on behalf of her constituents, both as my rep in District 5 and as mayor.

Councillor Marina Brzeski stated clearly that my wife should consider carpooling or take public transportation, and that people who have electric cars should not be charged more, and suggested that my neighbour consider buying one.

Firstly, who is she to dictate what other people need to do in their daily lives?

I thought the idea of raising the parking fees was to place more money in the coffers of Westmount, which – as I have said, along with others who have emailed the mayor and Ms. Brzeski – I am not against it as long as you consider the cost of living. An increase of about 10 to 15 percent to make up for all the years when there was no increase would be fair.

The idea that people with electric cars will not see their rate raised is ludicrous. If

this is what council is thinking, then perhaps they should raise the [fee] amount of parking on all non-electric vehicles, even those that have parking aprons or garages.* When they drive in and out of Westmount along with all the other cars that come to shop in our neighborhood are they all not giving off carbon dioxide? Instilling one’s views on a select few who have no other choice but to park on the street is undemocratic and dictatorial.

Does Marina even know what type of position in a company people have or what their daily routine is like when they must transport their kids to school and activities? Until public transportation goes everywhere and is convenient, clean and comfortable, I would suggest a more meaningful and less vindictive way of doing things is to do a study as to where people live and work. Only after you have completed the study, can you then figure out what policies rather than rates for parking should be put into place.

Protecting the environment and raising parking fees are two separate issues.

In fact, I recycle, compost and make sure I use less plastic. When I look around on garbage days, I do not see everyone in Westmount doing the same thing. This should be the city’s focus. But to tell people to give up their cars is unrealistic. We are years away from people being able to do so. Last time I checked, the entire island of Montreal represents less than one percent of all carbon dioxide emissions in North America.

Lastly, if parking rates do increase, I would hope that streets in the Victoria village get some type of priority as there are many homes without parking aprons. After a snowstorm, if the streets are not cleaned properly, quickly parking is difficult.

As for my District 5 representative, I think it would be a wise move for her to speak to her constituency, otherwise she might find herself outside the city council after the next election.

W. GLEN GROSSMAN, WINCHESTER AVE.

**Editor’s note:* As far as I know, there is no municipal fee or permit for parking on (or in) one’s own apron (or garage). – DP

NO LONGER THE ENVY OF MONTREAL ON SNOW REMOVAL

I think I speak for many residents, but certainly for my neighbours, when I write [on January 25] that the quality of our snow removal is not what it once was. No longer are we the envy of Montreal.

Our street is a veritable obstacle course. The sidewalks are treacherous. The roadbed is a solid sheet of ice and has not been

plowed more than twice in the past week. Each side of the street is piled high with snow banks. And one side of Sherbrooke remains uncleared.

It’s been six days since the big snowfall, so one wonders why such a small city cannot muster the needed resources to get the job done. It worked swimmingly in the past, so why not now?

I had attributed the steady decline to the chronically poor leadership of [former city councillor] Patrick Martin as commissioner of Public Works, but his successor* seems not a titch better. A major rethink is clearly overdue.

J. LONG, ELM AVE.

**Editor’s note:* The Public Works portfolio is now called the commissionership of infrastructure and innovation and is held by Councillor Philip Cutler. – DP

NOT PRACTISING WHAT IT PREACHES BRINGS SHAME TO CITY

It has been almost 11 years that I have been living in Westmount. I was so impressed when we arrived in the city of Westmount with the fact that it was leading the way with recycling and composting and my family was so on board with the fact that Westmount cared about the environment.

So it saddens me to write this once again to the local paper expressing my disappointment with Westmount. Pointing out that after countless letters, phone calls and postings on Westmount’s website, that they continue to NOT practise what they preach. We still have no recycling or composting containers in our parks or any public spaces throughout Westmount. It pains me to see after every celebration in the parks throughout the summers all the waste going to landfills.

I don’t know how to make Westmount accountable for this failure in helping the environment and ensuring a future for generations to come.

Each time I read articles that are representing what our mayor and others in the council state, all I read is words saying they will address environmental issues, yet the easiest step of managing waste has yet to be addressed and acted upon. You bring shame to a wonderful city every time I discuss this issue with others in the community.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

STOP THE ARRÊTS

I just want to add my vote of thanks to Jack Locke for his well-written letter in the January 22 issue (p. 6) about the “ARRÊT” stop signs, “What’s with change of the language of stop signs?”

I agree wholeheartedly! And now, what can we do to change the signs back to English? Please! Who’s responsible?

CLAIRE SALZBERG, CLAREMONT AVE.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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'ROBERT' SAYS MAYOR SHOULD NOT VOTE

Me again – with the same questions!

Last March, I pointed out here that according to correct parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order), the chair of a meeting cannot vote unless to break a tie. Our mayor cannot seem to grasp this principle.

According to your January 22 issue, at the January 14 meeting of council, "Mayor Christina Smith announced she would be voting and her 'aye' was very audible."

Voting to give yourself a raise seems to me a bit tacky as well as incorrect – but hey, I am from Toronto. Our library has many easy-to-follow books on how to run a meeting correctly, including (excuse me) *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules*. The council is a formal legal body, not a coffee party.

Secondly, could we have a few facts on exactly what this "needs assessment" for an indoor swimming pool involves – and also what it will cost? Once again the fact that some time ago 1,040 individuals supported the idea of such a pool (out of a total survey of 10,000) is quoted as the reason for undertaking this project – hardly overwhelming support for either the idea or the inevitable expense involved.

JO LAPIERRE, METCALFE AVE.

GIVE US ELECTRIC LEAF-BLOWER NAMES

In reference to Dr. Pless' letter to the editor (January 22, p. 6), I respectfully request that he share with the city of Westmount and the *Westmount Independent*:
1. the names of the large cities that successfully use electric leaf blowers and
2. the list of models that can do the job well.

This would be a genuine act of public service for which many residents (including the undersigned) would be most grateful.

MAUREEN KIELY, THE BOULEVARD

THE MORE BARD, THE BETTER

As new part-time residents of Westmount, who have known the area for over 20 years, we would like to endorse the sentiment of the January 15 letter by Jennifer De Leskie (p. 6) in favour of continued support from city hall for Shakespeare-in-the-Park.

Such support for the arts is important to foster the vibrant community spirit that we have experienced here in the past, and have decided to join. Being from the Vancouver region of BC, we have been nourished there by Bard-on-the-Beach for years.

Come on, councillors: the more Bard, the better!

HEDDI LERSEY & ANTHONY WALTER,
LANSDOWNE AVE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MONIQUE RICHARD SHOULD SPEAK TO STUDENTS

Thanks to your excellent newspaper, which many of us enjoy, under "2 O'Clock Lecture Series,"* I noticed a lecture on January 23 by the alpinist Monique Richard. Miss Richard is our former post mistress.



Monique Richard
on June 18, 2018.

PHOTO: WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT.

I therefore hastened to arrive on time as I had often had the pleasure of talking with this courageous and intrepid young woman, the first female alpinist to have climbed solo the highest mountain in Canada, Mt. Logan, and numerous other high climbs in the Himalayas.

A packed audience at the Westmount Library illustrated the interest conjured by the prowess of this young woman. Miss Richard completed the feat while carrying an unbelievable load of necessities herself. She underwent a fall into a crevasse on her ascent. It was only on the final descent, exhausted, lacking food and sleep, that she had to resort to rescue by Parks Canada helicopter, having taken a wrong turn.

I would point out that in my opinion, this would be a wonderful opportunity for some of our local schools. A talk by her to some of our local youth about what can be accomplished with determination, great courage and singleness of purpose while challenging oneself to face difficult decisions would be excellent.

GRETA STETHEM, GROSVENOR AVE.

*This item was actually in the city of Westmount's paid advertisement called "info-Westmount." Paid advertisements like this one inform and allow us to bring more content our readers. Tell you councillor and mayor! – DP

RESIDENTS WANT DISCUSSION OF ALL OPTIONS FOR TUPPER LOTS

In response to C. Leclaire's letter in the January 22 *Independent* ("City's Dorchester proposals better than empty lots," p. 7), few of the area residents that I have spoken with want to stay with the current parking lots.

There are several ideas – more green

space, bike lanes, new pool, even housing that is compatible with the (mostly Category 1) Victorian housing on the south side of Dorchester.

Unfortunately, the recent AGIL recommendations co-authored by Clément Demers preclude any of those scenarios. The only option presented is the narrowing of Dorchester, Tupper and Gladstone to maximize the developable space and the construction of 4-to-6 storey apartment buildings on the north side of Dorchester. The report did not even include a discussion about the suitability (or unsuitability) of the lots as a site for the new swimming pool.

With regards to the question "Does Dorchester actually get more traffic than Clarke going north and south, more than Westmount Ave.?" I cannot comment on Westmount Ave., but the Stantec traffic study commissioned by Westmount to analyze the effects of the AGIL recommendations documents that there is significantly more traffic on Dorchester than Clarke.

In addition to the delays that would be created at existing intersections under the AGIL plan, they also call for the elimination of the curve from Clarke to Dorchester with the extension of Clarke down to a "T" at Dorchester and the extension of Bruce north to St. Catherine. This creates two new intersections that must be navigated by vehicles travelling the Dorchester/Clarke route or the St. Catherine/Dorchester route and one new intersection for cars travelling along St. Catherine.

Each of these intersections would have a stop sign, which would add even more time to the delays documented in the Stantec report. While some might say that stop signs will slow traffic, there is not currently a significant problem with vehicles speeding along Dorchester. However, adding stops might result in more aggression in drivers who become frustrated trying to move through the area on their way to/from downtown Montreal.

We also feel that it is okay to leave the various ideas on the table and to continue a discussion on what is the best way to move forward. Let's also find out where councillors stand on the AGIL recommendations.

Former city councillor Theodora Samiotis had the integrity to publicly announce that the draft AGIL report was rejected as it was not representative of the city's consultations with residents (*Independent*, May 30, 2017, p. 1). Current councillor Kez stated that she could not support the nomination of Clément Demers to the PAC as, "despite formal residential input," he seemed to be in favour of the Montreal ap-

proach of high-rises for "the entire southeast sector, including the Tupper Lots" (*Independent*, December 11, 2018, p. 7).

What do the mayor and the other councillors think? What, if anything, do they like about M. Demers' recommendations for the area and what do they reject?

Their appointment of M. Demers to the PAC suggests that they endorse his recommendations, which take all other options off the table.

JIM RICHARDS, DORCHESTER BLVD.

PLEA FOR THE ATWATER LIBRARY

This year, the Atwater Library is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

It is a heritage building offering distinctive services. I've taken courses there (sponsored by the Quebec Writers' Federation), attended many interesting, educational lectures, participated in a book club and done research, all in a quietly welcoming atmosphere.

The Atwater Library also offers computer courses. In fact, it provides an evolving program intended for an inner-city clientèle whose needs differ greatly from those of Westmount Library users.

The Atwater Library receives funding from Westmount (\$39,000 in 2018) to cover courses and services not offered elsewhere. An elevator is being installed as many of the lectures and activities take place on upper floors. It will cost \$930,000. The problem faced by the library is that this project will require \$20,000 in permit fees and the increased assessment will add \$14,000 in taxes (both payable to Westmount), plus other related expenses.

For the last two years, Westmount has disregarded the Atwater Library's request for additional funding to offset these expenses. In essence, Westmount's contribution is "in-out." Computer literacy funding is wiped out by permit fees and the tax increase.

At the January 14 council meeting, I asked if an additional amount could be accorded to the Atwater Library. Mayor Smith responded that the library gets 30 percent of institutional funding.

The library receives no federal or provincial funding. The \$39,000 is a pittance.

My understanding is that as at December 15, 2018, Westmount had an unappropriated surplus of \$1.5 million. The administration prudently keeps a reserve for emergencies. But surely we could be a little more generous with the Atwater Library?

The elevator will provide greater accessibility to users of the Atwater Library. Given that Westmount has a policy to achieve greater accessibility, why would it not help this historic public institution?

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.



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The Victoria Ave. sidewalk south of Sherbrooke on February 1.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Mayor Smith sees both sides of 'massive' project

Royal Mount impact pitted against demerger rights

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The issue of the mega Royal Mount project at highways 40 and 15 (the Decarie expressway) was expected to be raised at an agglomeration council meeting last Thursday (January 31), and was to be discussed by the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), according to Mayor

Christina Smith.

Of particular concern is the independence and planning rights of the demerged municipalities, in this case the Town of Mount Royal in whose territory the development is located. The area also borders Montreal, where the potential impact on traffic congestion has been generating a major outcry.

"I support very much the independence of TMR," Mayor Smith said. "But this is a massive project so Montreal's concerns are not unreasonable. It's a hot issue."

Sidewalk snow, cont'd. from p. 1

cover them with snow from driveways. "Just a little snow can make a difference."

Mayor Smith said the city went out and spread abrasives on a large icy patch on Academy Rd. in front of Westmount Park School after it was reported by a citizen coming into city hall. Apparently a "river of water" had frozen over.

While Montreal had been saying their clean-up challenges were compounded by some of the staff being off work the day that schools were closed (January 24), she said, "I'm pleased to say 58 out of our 60 [employees] came in, along with all 30 contractors."

'Goes both ways'

She noted however, that it "goes both ways." She cited Westmount's experience with Montreal's planning of the redevelopment of the former Montreal Children's Hospital site when two Montreal mayors (Denis Coderre and then Valérie Plante) assured Westmount they supported a school on the site, most of which is located in Montreal.

And now, the lack of one is expected to have a big impact on Westmount schools, she said.

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Showroom opening in 2019

New year, same phenomenon



The *Independent*, as has happened frequently, witnessed a vehicle going east against de Maison-neuve's one-way on January 10. This photo was taken between Prince Albert and Victoria.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Centre Greene looking to the future after a successful year

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Centre Greene had a great year in 2018, volunteers said, completing a total renovation of the kitchen this past summer, getting a new inclined walkway at the front entrance in the fall, and launching a strategic plan setting out priorities for the next three years.

“Centre Greene has again completed a successful year,” the centre’s treasurer Gerard Fellerath reported during its annual general meeting held on January 31.

“Looking to the coming year, we are consistently developing new programming, as well as improving the condition and quality of the building we occupy in partnership with the city of Westmount,” he added.

The year began well last February, when a team of people from Werkliv arrived at Centre Greene to renovate the multi-purpose room. In the spring, volunteers with the help of Home Depot brightened up the sunroom with new paint and ceiling fixtures.

By summer, it was time to renovate the kitchen, making the space much more user friendly and convenient for cooking

programs and lessons offered at Centre Greene.

“The project was really, truly a team project,” board member Jim Richards, who oversees Centre Greene’s building committee, said about the kitchen work.

He said they solicited input from all the major stakeholders, including seniors and regular users of the kitchen, “in order to create a design that would serve both current and future needs.”

In the fall, the new inclined walkway was inaugurated after being completed by the city, which owns the building. Richards acknowledged the assistance received from Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who shepherded the project through city council, as well as Councillor Marina Brzeski and Mayor Christina Smith.

While focusing on streamlining Centre Greene’s administrative functions, the centre’s staff began tracking the number of people using the building and found there were more than 1,200 of them. Another administrative improvement in the past year was to begin putting the centre’s rental booking system online.

Centre Greene held a number of special events last year, including its last-ever



Seated and standing at table during Centre Greene’s annual general meeting on January 31 are, from left, the centre’s executive-director Beth Symansky, treasurer Gerard Fellerath, president Jane Wightman and recording secretary Kate Sutherland.

annual book sale. Proceeds from that event went directly to Centre Greene’s Campership Fund which, over the years, has provided a total of 175 weeks of summer camp to families in need. And last year, as every year, there was also the Treats and Treasures, the corn roast, Halloween party and a number of community suppers.

The following people were approved during the meeting to be members of Centre Greene’s board of directors over the coming year: Michele Beacom, Paul Billette, Erica Bloom, Gerard Fellerath, Christine Harkness, Peter Marcovitz, Jim Richards, Kate Sutherland, Willem Westenberg and Jane Wightman.

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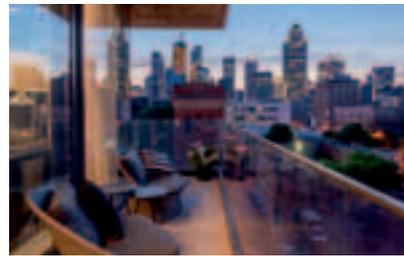
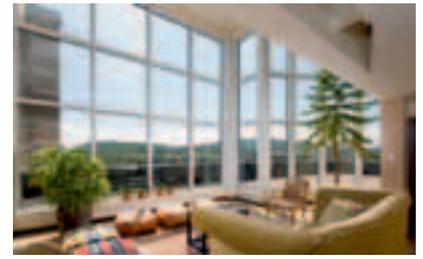
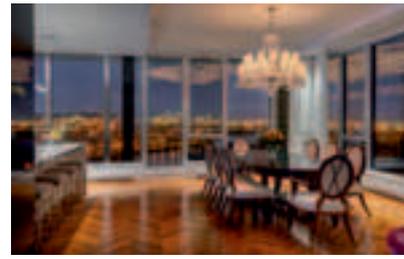
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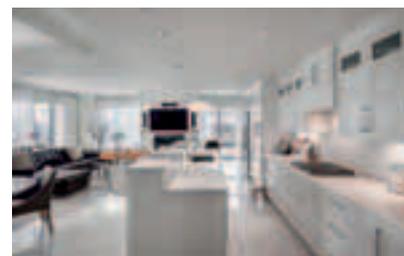
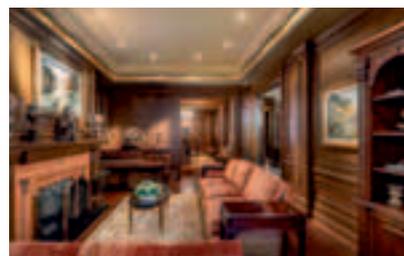
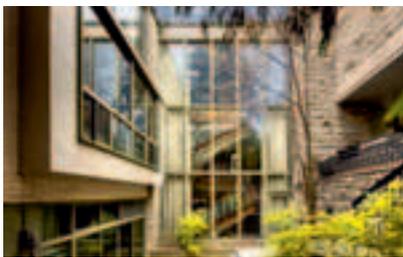
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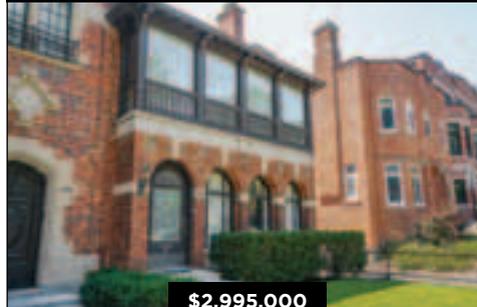
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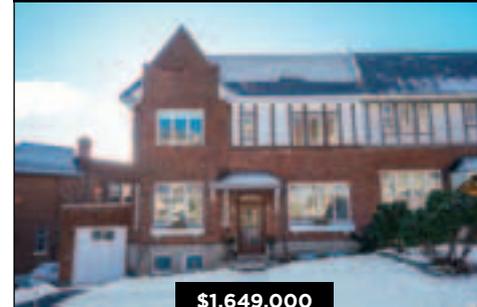
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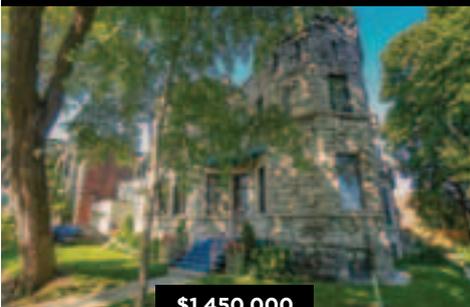
AV. WOOD, WESTMOUNT

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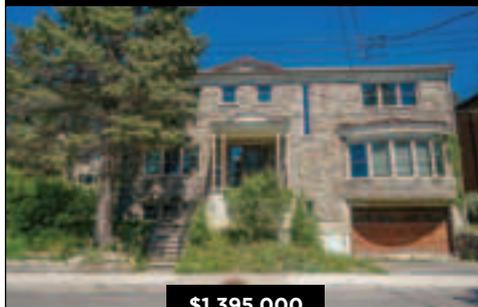
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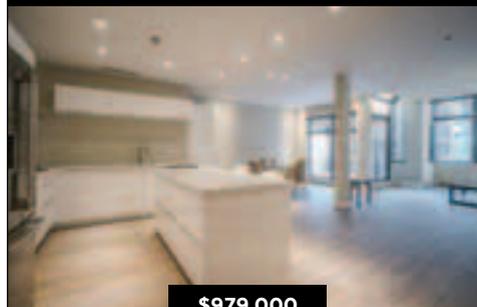
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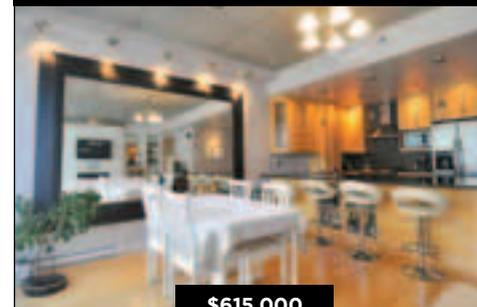
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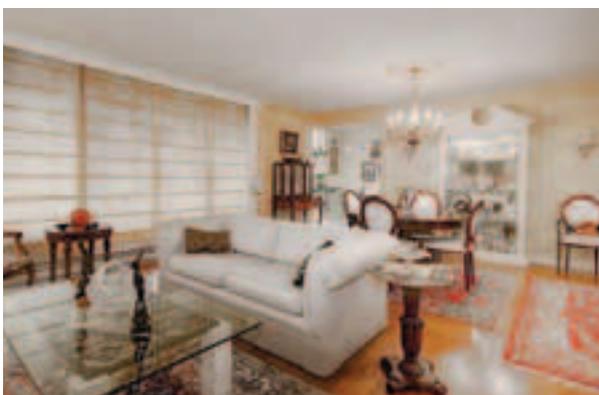
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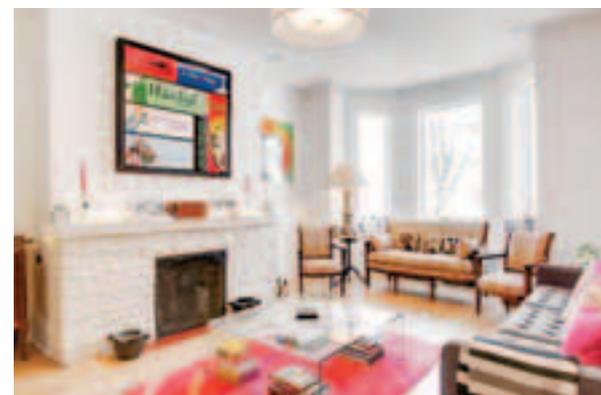
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in October 2018, and others

ADDRESS	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
115 Aberdeen	\$1,585,000	\$1,215,800	30.37%
18 Anwoth	\$1,125,000	\$1,115,400	0.86%
4038 Dorchester	\$1,275,000	\$929,900	37.11%
364 Elm	\$1,220,000	\$993,900	22.75%
450 Elm	\$2,577,000	\$1,984,800	29.84%
9 Forden	\$3,250,000	\$3,258,300	-0.25%
310 Grosvenor	\$1,450,000	\$1,139,600	27.24%
644 Grosvenor	\$1,730,000	\$1,319,700	31.09%
50 Holton	\$2,250,000	\$1,289,300	74.51%
76 Holton	\$3,975,000	\$1,182,100	236.27%
654 Lansdowne	\$1,295,000	\$1,212,500	6.80%
423 Mount Pleasant	\$1,425,000	\$1,207,100	18.05%
641 Murray Hill	\$1,550,000	\$1,305,500	18.73%
31 Oakland	\$2,945,000	\$1,232,500	138.95%
515 Roslyn	\$3,270,000	\$2,740,800	19.31%
651 Roslyn	\$2,750,000	\$1,955,500	40.6%
50 Summit Circle	\$1,850,000	\$1,658,900	11.52%
510 Victoria	\$1,723,800	\$1,113,800	54.77%
422 Wood	\$1,335,000	\$1,019,400	30.96%
TRIPLEXES			
336-40 Grosvenor	\$1,775,000	\$1,051,200	68.85%
CONDOMINIUMS			
4175 St. Catherine #PH1 (2201)	\$2,880,000	\$2,597,700 ¹	10.87%
215 Redfern #309	\$1,850,000	\$1,444,100 ²	28.11%

ADDRESS	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
CONDOMINIUM GARAGE SPACES			
4160 Sherbrooke #S-06	\$17,700	\$17,700	0.0%
4160 Sherbrooke #S-07	\$17,700	\$17,700	0.0%
APARTMENT BUILDINGS			
1 Rosemount	\$12,300,000	\$7,095,000	73.4%
10 Rosemount	\$22,700,000	\$13,080,000	73.5%
SEMI-COMMERCIAL			
4875-75A Sherbrooke	\$775,000	\$708,500	9.39%
EARLIER SALES			
104 Arlington (September)	\$2,440,000	\$1,860,600	31.1%
36 Summit Crescent (August)	\$2,425,000	\$2,093,800	15.8%
3777 The Boulevard (September)	\$2,500,000	\$2,650,000	-5.7%
29 Willow (September)	\$2,325,000	\$1,592,500	46.0%
EARLIER CONDOMINIUM SALES			
37 Bruce (August)	\$650,000	\$563,500	15.4%
4175 St. Catherine #1104 (September)	\$1,750,000	\$1,390,900	25.8%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$2,488,600 for the apartment, \$55,700 for one garage, \$53,400 for the other garage.

²Valuation is a combination of \$1,277,900 for the apartment, \$83,100 for each of two garage spaces.

Pursuant to a request to the city of Westmount's city clerk under *An act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information*, the *Independent* received a list of addresses that received "welcome tax" bills in and near October 2018. Other information published here was researched by columnist Andy Dodge.

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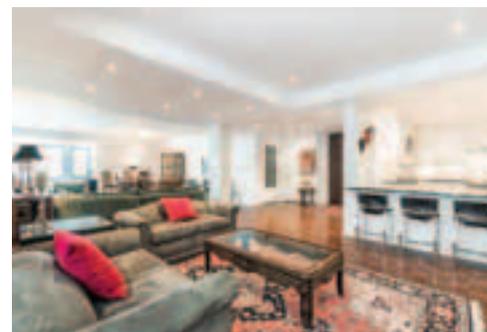
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Real Estate

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October transfers: Volume makes a comeback

volve prices over \$2 million.

The highest price in October was a stunning \$3,975,000 for a semi-detached, brick two-storey house at 76 Holton Ave., evaluated by the city at \$1,182,100 and which had been sold to Tania Dupont in May 2017, for \$1,430,000. The latest deed indicates there were extensive renovations, but the most recent transaction did not have a public listing and sold to “Fiducie Vawo,” a trust with three names attached. With a price more than three times its city assessment, it was by far the highest mark-up in October, though it should be noted that 31 Oakland Ave., with a \$2,945,000 price tag, sold for more than double its municipal valuation.

The only mark-down of the month also involved one of the priciest properties, as 9 Forden Ave., a huge blend of two semi-detached houses converted back in the 1980s, sold for \$3,250,000, just under its municipal valuation of \$3,258,000. Close to that, 18 Anwoth Rd. sold for just over its \$1,115,400 valuation, at \$1,125,000 the lowest price of the month. All of the other registrations were double-digit mark-ups.

Condos

Only two condominiums sold in October, highlighted by the purchase of what is titled “Penthouse 1” at Château Westmount Square, which the city classifies as Apt. 2201. The \$2,880,000 price is something of a new phenomenon in condo re-sales; in July a condo at 1 Wood Ave. sold for \$2,850,000 and another at the same address sold in September for \$2,900,000.



1 Rosemount, at Sherbrooke St.

One other penthouse condo at 1 Wood sold in 2017 for more than \$3 million, and five of the newly-attired condos at 215 Redfern Ave. sold in 2017 for more than \$2 million, but otherwise no Westmount condos have sold that high since the buy-up of condos at 1250 Greene Ave. in 2013. Thus it is noteworthy that information revealed another condo sale in September, Apt. 1104 at Château Westmount Square, for \$1,750,000, the fifth-highest price for a Westmount condo in 2018.

Rosemount Ave. apartment buildings

Also of note in October was the double-

sale of the apartment buildings on opposite corners of Rosemount Ave., at Sherbrooke St., from numbered companies operated by Norman and Larry Katz, to a New Brunswick-registered company called Akelius Montreal Ltd., which operates numerous buildings throughout the city, including three others in Westmount. The price tag for the two buildings was \$35 million and represents a mark-up of almost 75 percent compared to their municipal valuation.

Other October sales were a triplex at 336-40 Grosvenor Ave. and two garage spaces at the 4160 Sherbrooke St. condo



76 Holton Ave.



16 and 18 Anwoth Rd.

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October 2018. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

Volume returned to the Westmount real estate ledger in October, with 19 one- and two-family sales after only eight (revised from five) transfer deeds were signed in September. The October tally is the second-highest volume recorded so far this year (after 21 in August) and may have something to do with buyers' recognition that they are going to have to accept prices over \$2 million for many – indeed most – Westmount properties.

The list, enhanced by transfer tax address information provided by city hall pursuant to a request under *An act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information*, shows an average \$2,030,568 price tag for Westmount houses, down slightly from the average prices for August or September, but the average mark-up over valuation in October was 38.4 percent, the highest one since the 2017 valuation roll came into force, up from 31.1 percent in September and 20.5 percent in August.

Volume had remained low through the spring sales season, with only 40 sales registered in the usually busy months of May, June and July, 13 of those over \$2 million. Now we've had 48 closings in August, September and October, 21 of which in-

BUILDING PERMITS  What's permitted

Council approves 6 building permits at five addresses

The following 6 permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the January 14 meeting of the city council. Two are listed for the same address. There were no refusals.

Approved

17 Bellevue: to add an underground garage, modify the roof, windows and cladding on the exterior; to align the floors, renovate the kitchen, bathrooms and all rooms on condition that on the rear façade the metal component between the pairs of windows be an integrated spandrel panel, that the adjacent balcony floor edge be detailed with matching metal, that the balcony alcove be clad in stone as presented November 27 and that the wall space between the alcove and the upper floor revert to brick masonry;

737 Lexington: to build an accessory building;

4010 St. Catherine: two permits to install signs;

596 Victoria: at a Category I house, to replace doors and windows provided the windows are in wood (interior and exterior) without any cladding and that the doors to be replaced replicate the original ones;

332 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to replace a window on condition it be in wood (interior and exterior) without cladding and that the divisions are SDL as per article 4.1.5 of the *Guidelines for Renovating and Building in Westmount*.

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www.westendclassifieds.com



10 Rosemount, at Sherbrooke St.

building, along with a semi-commercial building at 4875-75A Sherbrooke St., home of ChouChou Shoes, for \$775,000.

Older sales

Pre-October sales included four single-family dwellings, interestingly all with prices between \$2,325,000 and \$2,500,000,

a duplex-type condominium on Bruce Ave. and, as mentioned, another condo at Château Westmount Square.

The pre-October sales also included five transfers of garage spaces at 215 Redfern Ave. to the building management corporation. The deeds specify that they are to become additional locker areas.

This Week's Feature Presentation

44 Burton Avenue \$1,198,000



Open House Sun Feb 10 2-4 pm

Renovated elegant 3 bedroom row house on quiet street in the Victoria Village. Hardwood floors, moldings, 2 bathrooms, new kitchen, windows, roof. Separate entrance to unfinished basement, private garden. street permit parking. a real jewel...

312 Roslyn Rental \$4,300 heated



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**4476 Ste. Catherine
St. W. #304**



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**443
Prince Albert**



SOLD

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Harji lecture focuses on Burma as 'lost paradise'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As the Atwater Library's Lunchtime Series guest speaker on January 17, world traveller and photographer Muslim Harji's presentation on Burma as a "lost paradise" explored the many aspects of the culture and geography of this southeast Asian country that has also been known as Myanmar since the late 1980s.

Although Burma has been in the news quite a bit in recent years because of the Rohingya people's crisis, Harji didn't dwell on that issue, preferring instead to emphasize the country's beauty, as well as its rich and ancient cultural heritage.

All the same, this focus didn't stand in the way of his denouncing the military regime that currently governs Burma.

"Burma today is ruled by a vicious military government that is not only doing bad things to the Rohingyas," he said, noting the persecution that has made international headlines.

"They are also terrible to the people themselves – the local people, the Burmese people." Still, he assured his audience, "today we're going to leave the politics of Burma and I'm going to show you the wonderful country – the lost paradise."

Harji described the citizens of Burma as



Seasoned traveller Muslim Harji answers questions about travel to Burma during his presentation at the Atwater Library on Jan. 17.

"a non-aggressive people. Very kind. Very gentle people. And you can see it from the moment you land at the airport. You can see how kind, how welcoming they are. They're not arrogant. They don't show off, because they have nothing to show off. Very, very down to earth."

As for the landscape of Burma, he described it as being covered with Buddhist pagodas. "When you are landing in Burma in the evening, the whole city of Rangoon is dotted with beautiful pagodas."

As Harji noted, the highlight of any trip to Rangoon, which was Burma's capital until 2006, has to be a visit to Shwedagon Pagoda – the country's most sacred one. The 2,000-year-old shrine is covered in a cladding of solid gold. Parts of the roof are also encrusted with thousands of diamonds.

Offerings of food and drink brought to the Buddha by visitors to the pagoda are distributed to the poor and are also left for birds to eat. "The atmosphere is very, very

magical," said Harji, noting that the air is filled with the aroma of incense while candle light illuminates the interior of the pagoda.

Harji devoted quite a bit of his presentation to the street food that is widely-available in Rangoon. He provided a list of tips for those planning on a visit to Burma for enjoying Rangoon's street food.

Among them: look for busier food carts (a good sign that ingredients are fresh and the food is good); eat at carts frequented by locals (as no one knows better where to find good food than local residents); bring small change as a courtesy (hawker carts are the worst place to break big bank notes).

Harji insisted that Rangoon's street food is perfectly safe to eat, although at least one woman who had visited Burma approached him afterwards to tell him otherwise. He insisted that the only time he'd fallen ill from food in Burma was not after consuming food purchased on the

street, but rather after dining at an expensive restaurant.

Sports and Rec, cont'd. from p. 1

ing kids how to transform data into comprehensible computer language, "making it interesting by teaching them to create computer game scenarios."

While the senior sing-along is listed for ages of 50-plus, Lapointe said this age was set to entice as many people as possible to sign up. "It's a way to give a new program a fighting chance," he explained. "We need 10 people to run a program at cost." This is mainly to pay an instructor.

Despite the new coding program, a Saturday STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) course will also be available for ages 5 to 6, 7 to 8 and 9-plus.

This year's programs are taking place without an increase in fees over last year's spring and summer selection, Lapointe said.

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Christmas (trees) in February

Public Works chief Talarico: final pick-ups scheduled for this week



Last week, the *Independent* noticed discarded Christmas trees on Sherbrooke, Kitchener, Redfern, Prince Albert and de Maisonneuve. When asked on January 31, city Public Works director Robert Talarico said that snow removal operations were scheduled to end the next day and the remaining trees were scheduled for removal this week. Residents are asked to call 514.989.5311 if a tree has not been picked up.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Notice is hereby given that **Susan BRISCOE**, domiciled at 119 Lewis Avenue, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 2K7 in her lifetime, died in Montreal on August 31st, 2018. An inventory of the Deceased's property has been made in accordance with the law and can be consulted on request by email to lbriscoe@videotron.ca.

Given on this 29th day of January 2019.

Lorraine BRISCOE, liquidator



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Police traffic officer Goldberg retires

His goals: Building relationships, knowledge of city

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Police constable Steven Goldberg retired last week after 30 years on the force, 16 of which were served at local Station 12 as Westmount's well-known traffic officer.

Throughout that time he has investigated trouble spots, studied various citizen complaints, sat on the city's Traffic Advisory Committee and added his expertise or recommendations based on the Quebec Highway Safety Code.

"It's the relationships he has built up with citizens and city officials that is going to be a big loss for the station," says Lieutenant Jacques Meunier, its second-in-command, who has worked with Goldberg for many years.

And it's more than with a heavy heart that Goldberg, 55, was set to sign off officially February 4 and take his pension. "I'm heartbroken," he said.

"When you're doing something you enjoy in such a beautiful, dynamic sector as Westmount and Ville Marie, things are perfect. There's plenty of work. My days go by so fast. You're busy working on complaints, speeding and cycling operations, analyzing data and attending meetings



Constable Steven Goldberg outside Station 12 January 25.

with city and borough officials."

During that time he said, the city's traffic committee has grown into "a really big machine" that includes representatives from many different city departments who ask for his input or opinion, whether it's about putting up road signage or re-engineering a street.

"Something may sound like a good idea," Goldberg explained, "but I can't ask police to enforce it if it can't be applied under *Tome V*." This is the ministry of Transport's three-volume directory of standards on road signage and bike paths.

Main traffic problems

And on saying his farewells, Goldberg

told the *Independent* that speeding, parking and construction projects were the city's main traffic issues.

The Turcot project and other construction work along Sherbrooke and outside the city's borders not only bring added traffic through Westmount, but the volume leads to driver impatience and speeding through collector streets.

On one of his last days, Goldberg was called out suddenly to Tupper and Atwater outside the construction site of the former Montreal Children's Hospital. His expertise was needed regarding the placement of orange cones and adherence to permits issued by Montreal regarding construction vehicles.

It's the intersection where a pedestrian was killed by a dump truck December 12 as she crossed in the Westmount portion of the street. Since then, he said, adjustments were made to make Tupper one-way east so trucks could no longer exit westbound and turn south onto Atwater.

It was a typical example of people calling for Goldberg's input regarding adherence to regulations and permits.

"I love it because I'm trying to understand a problem and think out of the box," he explained. "I try to give ideas to people, such as engineers, when it comes to street infrastructure, for example, by saying 'Why don't you do such-and-such?'" Then he added: "I'm not an expert but I have an accumulation of knowledge and have worked with the best people."

Goldberg also looked after the school crossing guards and has been the only one at the station qualified to use the laser "gun" to measure the speed of vehicles.

Why policing?

He was working in sales and costing at his uncle's toy business after graduating from McGill in industrial relations and economics when someone showed him a police recruiting ad in a French newspaper.

"My French was pretty fractured at the time but it sounded interesting and I applied." Because of his life experience and education credits, he was sent directly to the police training academy at Nicolet.

Starting in 1989 as a rookie at the NDG station on Mariette and then working in a "solo car" in Côte des Neiges, he was persuaded in 2003 to transfer to Station 12 by its community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

One of his career highlights was serving a year in Haiti with the UN police force in 2016-2017. "It was phenomenal because you're stepping outside your comfort zone," he explained. "You're there with your *confrères* to coach the local police to the best of your ability. Is it perfect? No, but it's a help and you hope you touch someone's life."

Looking ahead

What's ahead in retirement? First, Goldberg and his wife of 26 years – residents of Blainville – will take a trip, he said. Their two children are now on their own. "I'd love to go back to school and do something that deals with the Highway Safety Code." As a first step to learn the basics, he has already enrolled in a course for operating heavy vehicles.

After that, "no doors are closed," he said.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Miriam Foundation hosts awesome art auction



Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir, Carol Tryansky, Franki Yanofsky, Deborah Malin and Judy Wolfe.

Mashed potatoes have never tasted better on a chilly eve. Once again, Ron Moford excelled at his Java U catering expertise. His team passed butter-tender sirloin on said spuds as well as exquisite bite-sized morsels of tuna tartare and darling dumplings.

Hungry guests were attending the Miriam Foundation annual Art Auction for Autism. The popular event was held at Espace 3550, also an art gallery called Parisian Laundry – yes, a former laundry facility – where an area was transformed with Delano South Beach-style white curtaining.

Co-presidents of the event were Westmounters **Judy Wolfe** and **Franki Yanofsky** along with **Carol Tryansky**, and **Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir**. Committee members who contributed to the success of the night were Westmount res **Lisa McConnell**, **Peter Yanofsky** and famed salad sisters (Mandy's) **Rebecca** and **Mandy Wolfe** working with **Sam Gold**, **Ellana Kent**, **Rachel Cobrin-Kramer**, **Deborah Malin** and **Vanessa Sicotte**.

As arrivals shed coats and gloves, they were greeted by Miriam's CEO/pres **Warren Greenstone** and foundation chair **Tony Meti**. Also attending from the Miri-

am were **Germin Mansour**, **Maydie Wolofsky** and **Lyusil Shubaralyan**.

Chic guests were there for the art. The event is renowned for showcasing a wide

range of works, and as it is an auction, often there are beautiful bargains. (It all depends on who is bidding!)

continued on p. 22

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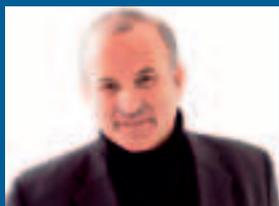


Mandy and Rebecca Wolfe with Michael Zaidan.



Linda Shaw and Frank Motter.

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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 21

Westmounter Mose Persico (there with his wife Joanne) was the ever-energetic auctioneer. Other Westmounters noted included Vincenzo Cavallo, John Leopold, Richard Hart, Laurie Samuelson, Michael Zaidan, Cary Miller, Sarah and Allan Rubin, Nick Niro, sister Nadia Niro (with her husband John Anthony Luzio), Olivier Setlakwe, Linda Smith, Nadia and Tomas Alberga, and Frank Motter and Linda Shaw, the proud top bidder on the John Little oil painting.

The donated art ranged from photographs (Chantal Bourgeois, Geraldo Pace),

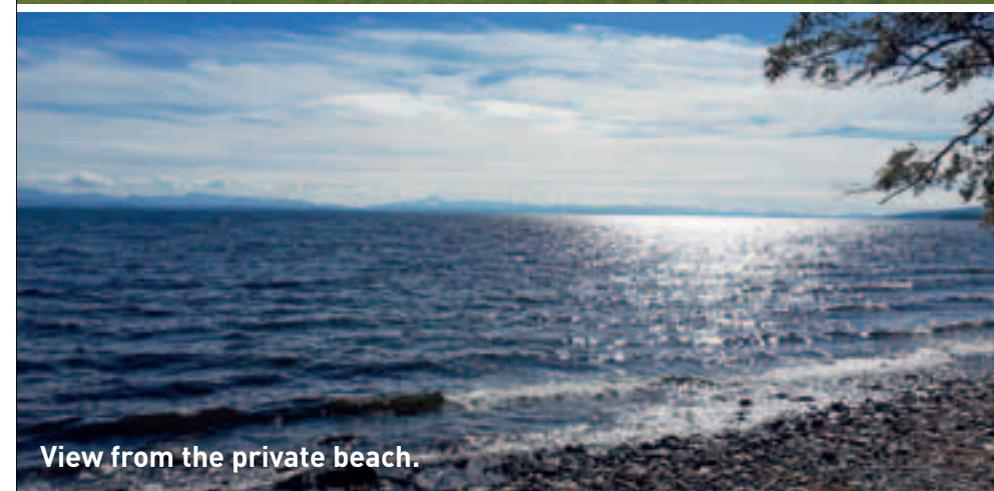
and acrylics (Yehouda Chaki, Antoine Tava), to silkscreens (WhatisAdam), a lithograph (Betty Goodwin) and digital art (Jeena, Paul-Émile Rioux).

Also seen were Rosemary and Frank Niro, Paul Ortenberg, Madonna and Jean Claude Levy, and Danika Fleury and Louis-Armand Bombardier.

The vibrant event raised \$160,000 to support the Abili-t Program, offering early intensive behavioural services to children with autism. In Canada, one in 66 children is diagnosed with autism. Research has proven that early intervention is of critical importance.



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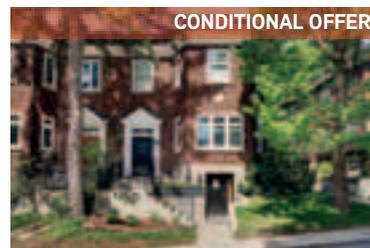
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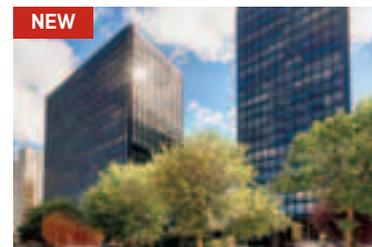
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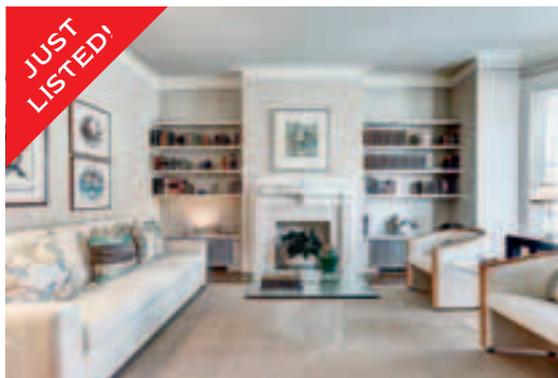


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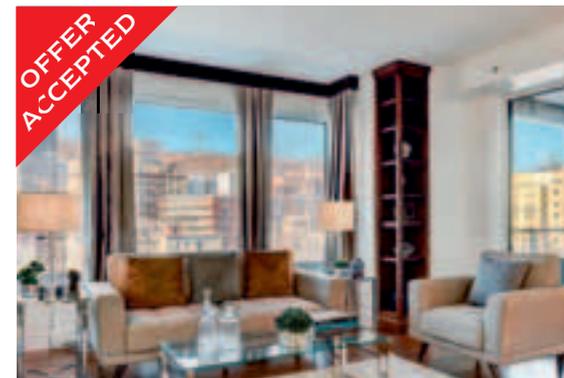
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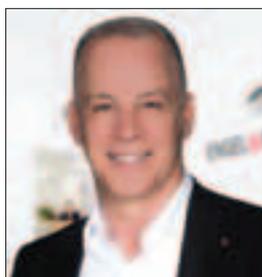
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