

## Remembering MP, cabinet minister, first Canadian in space Marc Garneau



Left, the first photo that the *Independent* published of Marc Garneau, in late 2007 when he was a candidate in a by-election to replace Lucienne Robillard as MP for Westmount-Ville Marie that was swept up into the 2008 general election. Right, one of the paper's last photos of him, with children from the Westmount Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club in June 2024 in Westmount Park. He was reading from a book by his friend and fellow astronaut Chris Hadfield. Garneau died June 4 after a short illness. He was 76. See p. 6 and p. 7 for more coverage.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT'S FILES & LAUREEN SWEENEY.

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Face painting, jewellery making, artists

## Vic village merchants' festival takes place June 14-15

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

This is the weekend for merchants in Victoria village to celebrate their summer festival on both Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. This is to feature sidewalk sales, street performers, magicians, music and circus acts.

Some of the merchants from the north side of Sherbrooke that are affected by the

street's construction zones will set up tables on the south side while others will have in-store promotions, said organizer Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the merchants' association.

Listed for Saturday are face painting for children, exhibits and work by artists on Victoria beside the CIBC bank as well as a workshop (10 am to 2 ..... pm) by the Visual Arts

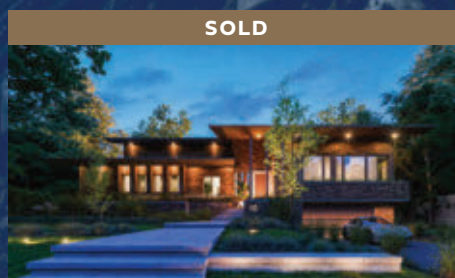
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# Lansdowner allowed 45 percent site coverage for emergency exit

## City council overturns PAC opinion to okay Hudson Ave. railing permit

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two examples of the many decisions concerning architectural and planning permits by city council May 5 illustrate the differences and reasons for some approvals, refusals and exceptions related to the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

One "unfavourable" opinion from the PAC's (closed-door) meeting in April was overturned at the council meeting in May in approving a permit request to replace wrought-iron railings on lower and upper porches at 6 Hudson Ave.

According to the council resolution, whereas modifications to existing buildings are permitted "as long as they are vis-

ually coherent and in harmony with the environment," the requested new railings were ultimately approved as being "in a composition" similar to the existing ones on the other half of the ensemble.

### Minor exemption

City council also approved a "minor exemption" at 680 Lansdowne to build a back deck that would increase the site coverage of the lot to 45 percent from the allowable 40 percent but would create "a functional secondary emergency exit at the rear which was currently unusable," according to the resolution.

A minor exemption is one that would be deemed not to cause serious impact or

exacerbate public health risks or safety to neighbouring properties.

## Robbery victim: 'Lock your windows and doors'

A resident of Metcalfe Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve wanted to share information about a recent break-in. It occurred at around 2 am early this month.

The perpetrator entered through a closed but unlocked ground-floor backyard window, after having tried to enter through the front door, a front window, the basement door and a side window. He or she stole a passport, a Nexus card, credit cards, a wallet and cash. He or she was in the house for four to five minutes. A dog started barking and scared the thief away. The thief had a surgical mask on and a hoodie covering his or her face.

"Lock your windows and doors!" concluded the resident's email to the Independent. – WI.

### Vic festival, cont'd from p. 1

Centre on Victoria at Somerville. This will feature the making of "junk jewellery" led by Isabelle Bredt. All material is to be provided and followed by an open house.

Prince Albert square at various times will feature a street magician and circus activities (12:30 to 1 pm) followed by Mafa

Studio youth hip hop (2 to 2:30 pm) as well as Planet Hip, a five-piece band and Tina Trons quartet.

Sunday at the square from noon to 4 pm will feature the Double Tonic duo, the Mike Uzan band along with street magic from Jonathan Levy and Amanda Dandelion circus acts.



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## Player of the month for April: Aether Anderson

# Leads team to winning Eastern Hockey League playoffs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) had only one team playing in April. It was the M13 C Wings team, which 11-year-old Aether Anderson helped move on to the regional finals in Chateauguay, according to Kai Duenez, city sports coordinator and vice president of the WMHA.

“With quick feet and a strong shot, (Anderson) scored many important goals *en route* to his team’s win,” he said.

“Against their rivals, a strong Kahnawake team, (Anderson) scored the game-winning goal to secure the trophy and provide Westmount with its only Eastern Hockey League title this season,” Duenez explained. “He then helped his team reach the finals of the Lac St. Louis Regional Tournament, ultimately falling to the Soulanges (team).”

Having played with the Westmount Wings for two years, the city’s minor hockey association “looks forward” to seeing Anderson “continue leading our Westmount teams to titles.”

Duenez compared Anderson to



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

Mathew Barzal of the New York Islanders.

Westmount’s player-of-the-month is a program launched in November 2019 “to highlight player contributions and acknowledge the opportunities and skills that minor hockey, and sports as a whole, can offer young people in developing sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which can be transferred into other areas such as academics and community service.” (See story November 19, 2019, p. 1).

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9 Lives, p. 9

Travel: Puglia, Italy, p. 17

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## No police report this week

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the *Independent* is unable to publish a report this week of recent crime incidents in Westmount. According to the Montreal police department’s Station 12 on Stanton St., a media spokesperson was unavailable for the two days late last week when we would normally touch base. – MCB.

## Correction: Queen’s School was on Olivier Ave.

Contrary to what we wrote last week (“Former Unity Boys’ Club members draw on Selby St. memories,” p. 20), Queen’s School was on Olivier Ave. It was King’s School (initially Glen School) that was where the 4800 de Maisonneuve apartment building is now. At least later in their lifespans, these institutions were elementary schools (see July 14-15, 2009, p. 20). – DP.

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# Old Timers present \$100K to Children’s Hospital Foundation

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Supporters of the Westmount Old Timers Hockey Tournament were at Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation offices on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in NDG on May 29 to present a \$102,309 cheque, representing sums raised from Old Timers hockey tournaments and related events in 2023-2024.

Westmount mayor Christina Smith was on hand, along with representatives of the city’s Sports and Recreation department. It was the 33rd year that money was donated



Seen in the photo on May 25 at Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation offices are, front row, Norm Richer, Martha Matossian, Arlene Lutter Hoppenheim, Nicolas Matossian, Mayor Christina Smith, Jim West (co-chairman), Laurent Dionne and Melissa Mastrogriuseppe for the MCH Foundation. Rear, Doug Price, Adam Cutler (co-chairman), Mike Deegan, Chris Dodson, Howard Hoppenheim, Dave Lapointe, Dr. Ken Shaw, Fred Greenberg and Eric Agulnick.

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ed to the MCH Foundation by the Old Timers, who also donate money each year to Hôpital St. Justine for children.

The tournament was initiated in 1989 by members of what was then called the Senior Westmount Allstar Team (SWAT) to bring together players from various



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regions to compete in a friendly charity tournament.

### Inspired by Nicolas Matossian (1969-1987)

The idea was inspired by Nicolas W. Matossian (1969-1987), a young patient at the Montreal Children’s Hospital who’d been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

Believing in an urgent need to fight the disease, he and some friends organized two golf tournaments that raised over \$50,000, while enabling him to start his own fund at the MCHF. That is about \$120,000 in today’s money.

Spurred by the example, SWAT founders decided that they too could organize a fundraiser and make a difference.

“The tournament has been an exceptional success thanks to the support of the city and its population,” said Nicolas Matossian Sr., a former Westmount



Nick Matossian makes a point.

city councillor and father of Nicolas. “However, too many Westmounters do not know about the tournament, its benefits and why the city has uniquely supported it for so long.”

Over the years, the Old Timers tournament has helped the Children’s acquire essential surgery and imaging equipment, while also paying for palliative care, microbiology, hemo-oncology and research programs for pediatric brain tumours at the MCH and Hôpital St. Justine.

Some of the donations to the MCH Foundation are also used to augment the Nicolas W. Matossian Endowment, a perpetual fund whose yearly revenues are distributed, as required by mandate, solely for the acquisition of advanced neuro surgical equipment and for research into pediatric brain cancer.

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## More inter-neighbour communication



As seen on Grosvenor between Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard on May 30. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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EDITORIAL

Rest in peace, Marc Garneau

The first political news story that I read about Marc Garneau was about him running to be MP for Vaudreuil-Soulanges in the 2006 federal election. The article explained how he was facing an uphill battle, post-sponsorship scandal, in a Bloc Québécois stronghold, and being roughly treated by the populace as he pressed the flesh on the commuter train platforms.

The article drew a contrast between his previous, gentler public life as a non-partisan astronaut, first Canadian in space and president of the Canadian Space Agency on the one hand and the hurly-burly of the hustings on the other, implying that politics *might not be his thing*. The way I read the story, though, was that he was committed to this new kind of work, even in inhospitable circumstances, and *persevering*.

Sure enough, the election in Vaudreuil-Soulanges was a blow-out win for the Bloc candidate (26,925 votes to Marc's 17,774).

Would that be the end of his political career? No.

Again, he persevered. Having paid his dues in the way that our political parties often demand, in 2007 he was given the Liberal candidacy in the plum, safe riding of Westmount-St. Louis (as it then was). Political times were not so plum for his party, however, and there were two more Liberal defeats to suffer before their next

country-wide victory in 2015.

I think these wilderness years are a great testament to his seriousness and dedication. He could have been doing other things.

In the end, he ended up winning the Westmount riding five times and held it until 2023. He was minister of Transport from 2015 to 2021, and of Foreign Affairs for most of 2021.

His credentials put many politicians around the world to shame. Self-made naval officers with earned PhDs, who were subsequently picked through an arduous process to be astronauts, are not thick on the ground in the highest echelons of democratic politics. Would that there were more like him.

\*

More personally, I reiterate what I said upon his retirement after 16 years as an MP and frequent cabinet minister (March 14, 2023, p. 6). Over this busy time, he always had time for this newspaper, despite our municipal focus and his national one.

Indeed, I have always considered him to be good luck for us. I met him in the first months of this newspaper's life for our initial interview with the then-never-elected candidate and it was published (November 7, 2007, p. 22) in our first issue to attain 24 pages, a major threshold for us at the time.

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City flags are flying at half mast to pay homage to the late Marc Garneau, as seen June 5 at 9 pm. Photographer Ralph Thompson picked the time using The Photographer's Ephemeris so the moon was aligned over the Westmount Public Library as it closed but before the lights were turned off. "Not a full moon, actually waxing gibbous, but sufficient to shine down to respect the passing of Canada's first astronaut. It was also a calm evening with very little wind, but just as I took the photograph, a puff of wind unfurled the Canadian flag."

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Over time, we became quite friendly. I am good friends with his son-in-law and after his retirement, we started to meet for casual beers by rotating through our respective houses. To protect Marc's reputation, I hasten to add these were very genteel events compared to many of my beery evenings! Here was a man old enough to be my father, famous nationally and well known internationally, and even I minded my Ps and Qs.

But over a few such *soirées*, we all did loosen up. Politics was over and the tape recorder was not running. Nevertheless, I think that I was the first to break the "profanity barrier" and I noticed that Marc soon

followed suit, with a milder word. It must take many years to unwind with a new person after having been in the public eye for so long, but we were getting there. It would be an aggressive interpretation of the facts to say that we were buddies, but it was going that way.

\*

My condolences to his family members, known and unknown to me; to his friends; and to his many fans and colleagues. On my end, I will hew to an aggressive interpretation of the facts and mourn him as a friend and buddy, whom I will miss and miss getting to know even better.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

Independent coverage of Marc Garneau

"Introducing Marc Garneau, federal Liberal nominee [interview]," November 7, 2007, p. 22

"Garneau supports Israel on its 61st," May 5-6, 2009, p. 1

"MP Garneau gets busy, moves back in, and gets ready to move again [interview]," May 19-20, 2009, p. 6

"Research funding, CBC, environment are local concerns [interview]," April 12-13, 2011, p. 10

"Reversal of fortune – Garneau wins seat at final hour," May 10-11, 2011, p. 8

"NDG-Westmount chooses Garneau," October 27, 2015, p. 4

"Election hopefuls air views at WMA Meet the Candidates meeting,"

October 1, 2019, p. 9

"Eight candidates on the ballot in NDG-Westmount," September 14, 2021, p. 19

"Interview with Marc Garneau, minister of foreign affairs: On China, where does Canada go from here?" October 12, 2021, p. 7

"Best wishes to Marc Garneau [editorial]," March 14, 2023, p. 6.

"TD Summer Reading Club goes 'To the Stars!' – Westmount chosen for program's 2024 national launch," July 2, 2024, p. 12.

"Former MP, astronaut Garneau opens up at Victoria Hall, launches autobiography," November 19, 2024, p. 6.



# Marc Garneau embodied integrity, intelligence, humility

## Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Marc Garneau on June 4. As a sign of mourning and respect, the flags at the city of Westmount's building will be flown at half-mast to pay homage to a man whose remarkable journey left its mark on the history of our city and our nation.

I also encourage residents to sign the

book of condolences that is at Westmount Public Library.

As Canada's first person in space, a former president of the Canadian Space Agency and a respected federal cabinet minister, Marc Garneau also devoted 15 years to serving us as our representative in the house of commons. Through every term as a member of parliament, he embodied integrity, intelligence and a deep respect for citizens.

### Accessible, attuned

Present, accessible and profoundly human, he was always attuned to the community. Marc Garneau was adored and respected in our community.

I hold fond memories of his last public engagements here in Westmount. In June 2024, during his participation at the national launch of the TD Summer Reading Club at the Westmount Public Library (see photo on p. 1), his passion, smile and kindness captivated young readers.

Many of us were also touched by the sincerity and humility with which he shared his professional and personal journey during the presentation of his memoir, *A Most Extraordinary Ride*, presented by the library and Community Events at Victoria Hall in October 2024. It was a truly inspiring and emotional moment.

Marc Garneau leaves a profound legacy in Westmount: that of a man who dedi-

cated his extraordinary journey to the service of others, with dignity, calm and commitment. Yet, beyond the great man, the great scientist and politician, Marc was above all a loving family man.

On behalf of the city of Westmount, I would like to express my heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Pamela, and his four children during this difficult time.

We will remember this extraordinary man who travelled among the stars and continues to inspire us to serve our community.

## Precious Margot, a young street pup – and reminder about adoption open house



### Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

We hold our breath. We don't really know much about dog rescue circumstances, so now we learn more. Dream Home Rescue provides a vital rescue service for street and family animals in areas without veterinarians. We pause to think about this. Are there actually areas like this?

Yes.

Dream Home Rescue works in the Cree community of Whapmagoostui, bringing in homeless dogs for care and adoption and



providing veterinary care. They come to us from the area's kind and devoted animal control officer. They are then flown in by plane to Dorval, then to home environments where there is care and preparation for adoption.

Stunning Margot puppy is one of a big litter, with four brothers and three sisters: Albert, Pops, Harry, Sushi, Yaz, Jiggly and Ariel. Young Margot is four months old, a husky mix with growing feet! She was found homeless with the other pups, without their mother.

They were rescued and arrived by plane on March 27 and are doing well. She has received her basic puppy vaccines, and the starter parasite, flea and tick treatment. So young, she should be spayed at the appropriate age by her adoptive family.

Margot is gentle and affectionate, and loving with her brothers and sisters. She is playful and also enjoys good snoozes in the sun.

### Open house at Little Bear

Come join us at the Dream Home Rescue **open house day** on **Saturday June 14 from 10 am to 3 pm** at the Little Bear Shop, located at 4152 St. Catherine St. near Greene.

You can then meet Sonia and Julie, who will tell you more about the rescue work and the puppies being presented for your consideration and adoption.

For more information right now, please refer to Dream Home Rescue's website at [www.dreamhomerescue.com](http://www.dreamhomerescue.com) or refer to its Facebook page, where you can have a look at the dogs that are being cared for now.

You will find the link to its adoption information form as well, which you can fill out to start a discussion on your family's interest.

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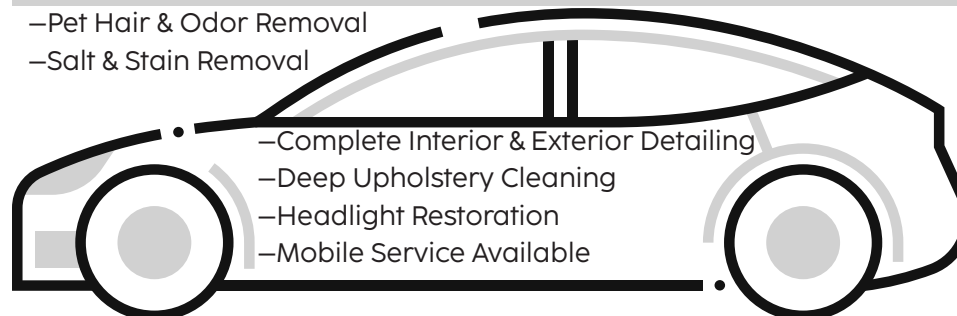
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Councillor's column

CONRAD PEART  
DISTRICT 4

In November 2022, Westmount's computer systems went dark. Emails froze. Workflows stalled. A ransomware attack forced us offline and threatened both our access to and control over the city's own resources.

The incident, coming just as we were still adjusting to post-pandemic workplace norms, exposed collective years of under-investment in digital talent and infrastructure. We had to re-build quickly, almost from scratch. It was an abrupt wake-up call. The world had changed, and once again, we had to change with it.

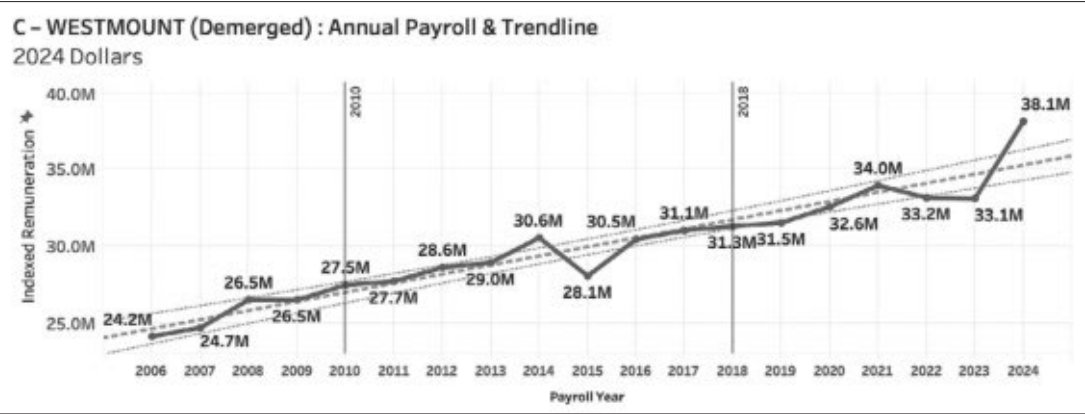
This is the new reality for local governments. Cities now face cyberattacks, climate change, housing pressure, aging infrastructure and rising public expectations. Addressing those challenges isn't about bloat. It's about capacity.

Investing in people

Yes, staffing has grown. But not by accident, and not without purpose. These were deliberate investments in people and systems to modernize and secure how we serve our taxpayers. Calling that bureaucratic excess misses the point.

In this space (June 3, p. 6), a former mayor simultaneously chides one councillor for not staying in their lane and derides others for not stepping in. He claims Westmount's "bloated bureaucracy" is draining

Looking at the numbers in detail tells a different story on headcount, dollar increases



cession. Retroactive pay for prior years was included in the deals, but accounting rules required the full amount to be booked in 2024. That year's spike was real, but it didn't reflect new hiring. In fact, headcount fell slightly that year. Correlation isn't necessarily causation.

Back to trend on payroll

Payroll in 2025 is expected to bend back toward the trendline. While still above the historical band, it reflects strategy and adaptation, not runaway growth.

financial reports from Quebec's municipal affairs ministry (MAMH), but broadened the scope to include earlier years.

It's true that headcount has increased since 2017. The most notable change came in 2020, with a net addition of 29 full-time equivalents. Three other years saw double-digit headcount growth. That period also included internal re-structuring that affected role classifications – largely among the blue collars at Public Works. Taken alone, these numbers could suggest an explosion in payroll costs.

But do they?

The former mayor cited two payroll figures: \$30.8 million in 2016 and \$38.1 million in 2024, both in 2024 dollars. He drew a straight line between those two points, and from there, accused council of irresponsible governance.

Let's zoom out.

band, it reflects strategy and adaptation, not runaway growth.

Payroll alone isn't the full story. Context matters. Over the last several years, we've taken real steps forward: improving cybersecurity, tightening regulations, investing in service delivery and laying the groundwork for a smarter, more responsive city.

Are we done? Not even close. Some jobs will change. Some won't. Robots won't prune trees anytime soon. AI won't teach your child how to kick a soccer ball. But modern algorithms might help speed up your window permit application. That's the point. Smart investments in people and systems make life easier, more efficient and more secure.

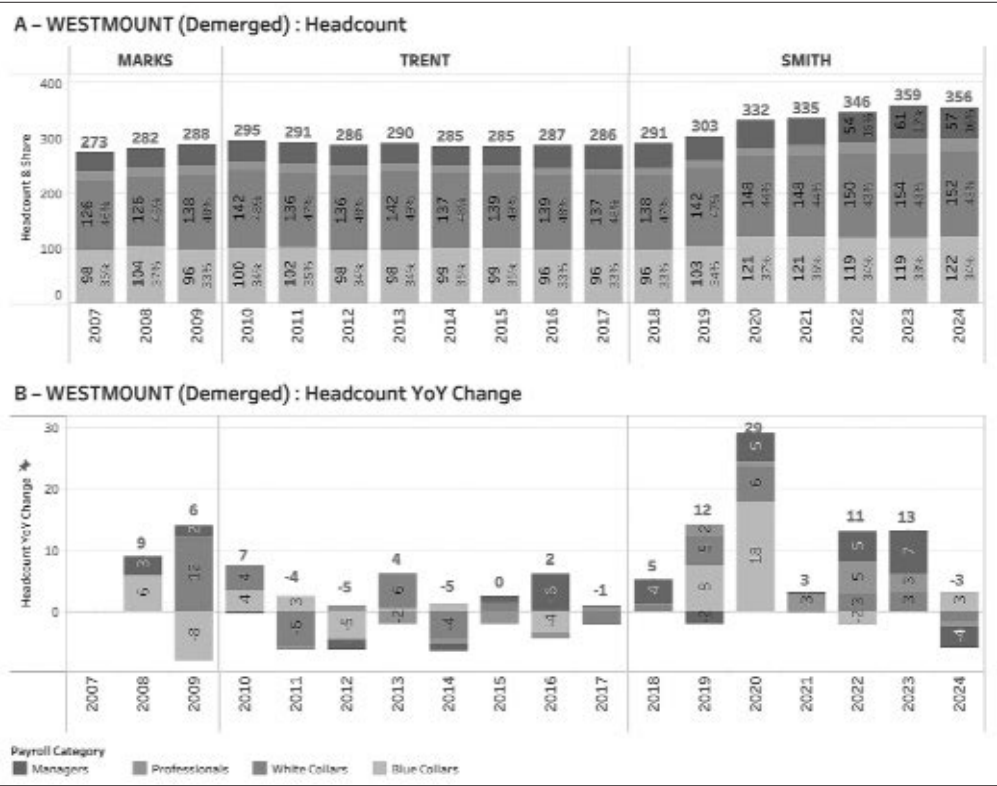
I'd rather be writing about what's next. I'd much prefer to focus on where we're going, not on re-litigating old arguments.

Because what comes next matters even more.

In an upcoming column, I'll turn to the southeast sector – a part of Westmount with enormous potential that has spent far too long in limbo and distress. What worked a generation ago may no longer be suited to meet the moment.

As it is with hiring, infrastructure or land development, the message is the same: yesterday's solutions won't solve tomorrow's problems. We must adapt, or we risk falling behind.

My interactive visualization is now available at [bit.ly/43I93gl](https://bit.ly/43I93gl) (or via QR Code) where you can explore Westmount's historical headcount and payroll spending for yourself.



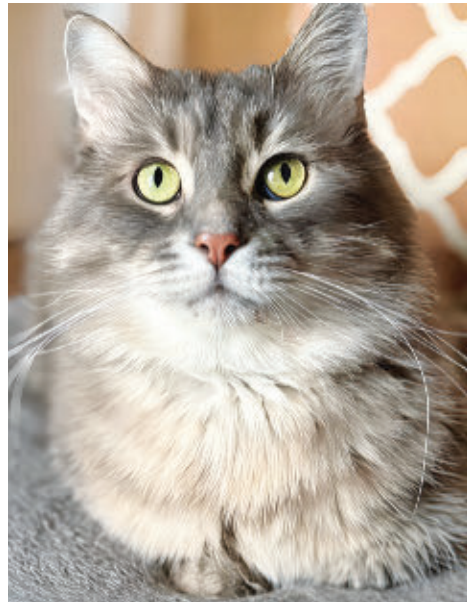


# Muggs, so handsome!



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



you to discuss further.

You can also write to the rescue directly at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org), presenting your interest and questions about Muggs.

He is quite a loving and calm friend, falling into the home routine very easily. Please consider Muggs joining your family soon.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

A stunning gray-and-black tabby with wonderful features and huge green eyes, Muggs is waiting for his forever family.

He is presently in foster care for the animal rescue volunteer group Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions. They are delighted to welcome him and mention that this calm and affectionate fellow is a bonded companion who loves routine and gentle play. Brushing, treats and naps complete his full day.

He was previously in a home with other cats, so he enjoys the little buddy moments of another cat as well. Muggs is five years old, up to date on his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

To find out more about him and have more photographs, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and read through Muggs' general information page. You can then fill out its application form through the link and a coordinator will get back to



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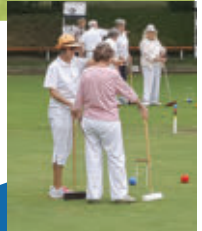
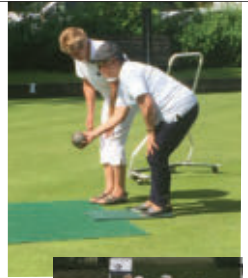
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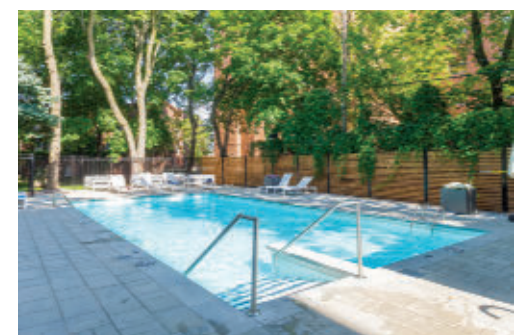
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Asphalt for roadway set for August

# Hydro work, sidewalk repairs take shape in Sherbrooke re-do



On June 4, new large concrete patches on the south sidewalk of Sherbrooke had already been completed in time for the Victoria village merchants’ festival June 14 to 15.



Pedestrians crossing Sherbrooke at Victoria outside the Hogg store June 4 were able to catch a good view of one of the lampposts being removed on the north side.

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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Ongoing major construction work for this summer on Sherbrooke between Grosvenor and the city limits west of Claremont quickly reduced traffic lanes and backed up traffic. Nevertheless, the street was kept open in each direction for busses, trucks and cars.

Hydro Westmount work on the north side moved quickly into high gear last month with what might be called “ear-splitting” drilling by large highway-type equipment to quicken the deep work.

*In time for festival*

Partial patchwork on the south-side sidewalk quickly took shape between Prince Albert square and the west city limits and was completed in time for the Victoria village street festival June 14-15 (see separate story p. 1).

On the north side, between Grosvenor and Prince Albert, two electrical chambers were being re-built and conduits between them laid out anew while replacing lamp-post bases began last week.

The re-surfacing of Sherbrooke between Grosvenor and the west city limits is “currently scheduled” for the end of August, according to Mugisha Rutishisha, city Communications director.



# Château Westmount still at work on exterior brick façade

BY JENNIFER BALL

Château Westmount, which recently underwent some internal changes when it formalized procedures to coordinate with the Quebec health care network, is still undergoing exterior masonry work.

It is located at 4860 de Maisonneuve, corner Victoria.

On April 29, the *Independent* reported the long-term care facility's owner Anna Fiszler said that after a new arrangement with the provincial government, fees would be billed to residents on a sliding scale as of May 1, while it was to remain a private long-term care residence. (See April 29, p. 1 and 3.)

On February 26, Joseph Di Tiello – Fiszler's spokesperson – gave the *Independent* an interview where he detailed the scope of work on the exterior of the residence, which he classified as on-going maintenance and rejuvenation, and he provided the timeline for completion.

He told the *Independent* at the time, "You have to take it with a grain of salt when it comes to construction and now with the [75 centimeters of snow that fell in the city in February], I suspect it should be completed by [March 30]." See March



The Château Westmount seniors' residence, which is found at 4860 de Maisonneuve Blvd., corner of Victoria Ave., with the front exterior of the building under scaffolding in preparation for masonry work to commence. Photo taken on June 3.

18, p. SL-6 for the full story.

## Spokesman: By-laws were complicated

It wasn't, but "not because of us," Di Tiello said when he spoke with the *Independent* again on June 3.

"I am not throwing the city under the bus because there are by-laws and regulations and everyone has to follow them, but it is a little tedious and laborious..."

"They have many demands and files on

their desk, and we were in priority but sequential priority. Now we are ready to go ahead."

Di Tiello told the *Independent* that they obtained a permit from the city mid-April when the city approved the brickwork.

According to Di Tiello, Château Westmount required two types of permits from the city.

"You need a permit to begin dismantling..."

"Then you need a permit that will acknowledge the type of brick which the city has to approve to keep it in conformity with the surroundings. They provided that permit [the third week of April] so we can proceed with the ordering of the [bricks and masonry materials] because they have to be fabricated..."

"They are not generic bricks," he said.

The *Independent* reached out to the city's Communications department and the Urban Planning department on June 3 to fact-check information on the scope and date of the permits that were issued, but the information was not provided by the given print deadline.

Di Tiello did not have a date on when the company conducting the work, which is Maçonnerie Desrosiers, expects to receive the materials to commence work.

Once workers eventually ascend the scaffolding – which has been installed on the front of the building – tools in hand, Di Tiello suspects the work will take 30 days to complete.

"The work on the sides [and back of the building] will go into next year and [it will be] completed within a 12-month period once it is started."

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# infoWESTMOUNT

2025.06.10 • Vol. 6/11



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 juillet

NEWS


NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, July 7



### Participez au concours de photos !

**Jusqu'au 2 juillet**, partagez vos photos de Westmount ! La photo gagnante sera mise en vedette sur le site Web de la Ville tout l'été et partagée sur ses comptes de médias sociaux.



### Participate in the Photo Contest!

**Until July 2**, share your photos of Westmount! One winning photo will be featured on the City's website all summer long and shared on its social media accounts.

### Abonnez-vous aux avis de la piscine

La piscine du Centre des loisirs de Westmount est maintenant ouverte ! Restez informés en temps réel de tout changement à la piscine (météo, incident, etc.) en vous inscrivant aux alertes par courriel ou SMS via le Portail citoyen. [westmount.org/piscine](https://westmount.org/piscine)

### Tests disponibles pour l'échantillonnage de plomb à domicile

La Ville offre un service d'analyse de l'eau résidentielle aux ménages éligibles. Découvrez le plan de Westmount pour l'élimination du plomb dans l'eau et inscrivez-vous pour une analyse gratuite. [westmount.org/plomb](https://westmount.org/plomb)

### Sign Up for Pool Notifications

The outdoor pool at the Westmount Recreation Centre is now open! Stay up to date on any changes at the pool (weather, incidents, etc.) by signing up for email or SMS alerts through the Citizen Portal! [westmount.org/pool](https://westmount.org/pool)

### Tests Available for At-Home Lead Sampling

The City offers lead testing in the spring and summer for eligible homes. Learn more about Westmount's lead elimination plan, and opt-in for free testing. [westmount.org/lead](https://westmount.org/lead)

### Travaux routiers et projets

Restez à l'affût des travaux routiers et des projets à Westmount en consultant la page dédiée du nouveau site Web de la Ville. [westmount.org/travaux](https://westmount.org/travaux)

### Imagine Westmount Sud-Est

**Le 18 juin, à 18 h**, au Victoria Hall, une assemblée publique aura lieu pour présenter le PPU et ses règlements de concordance. Le public aura l'occasion de s'exprimer sur le projet à la suite de la présentation. [westmount.org/sudest](https://westmount.org/sudest)

### Roadwork and Projects

Stay updated on current roadworks and projects happening in Westmount. Visit the dedicated page on the City's new website to consult project details and the roadworks map. [westmount.org/works](https://westmount.org/works)

### Imagine Westmount Southeast

**On June 18, at 6 p.m.**, at Victoria Hall, a public assembly will be held to present the SPP and its concordance by-laws, and to allow the public to express their views on the project. [westmount.org/southeast](https://westmount.org/southeast)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Horaire d'été pour la Bibliothèque

**Du 15 juin au 1<sup>er</sup> septembre**, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les dimanches. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Exposition jeunesse - En regardant par ma fenêtre

**Jusqu'au 12 juin**, Victoria Hall. Dans le cadre du Concours littéraire McEntyre, le Centre des arts visuels a organisé des ateliers artistiques inspirants pour plus de 200 élèves des écoles Saint-Léon-de-Westmount, Westmount Park Elementary et The Priory. À travers le dessin, la peinture gouache et le collage, chaque jeune artiste a imaginé et exprimé la vue qu'il ou elle aimerait voir depuis sa fenêtre. Venez admirer ces œuvres créatives et touchantes ! [westmount.org/evenements](https://westmount.org/evenements)



### Bloomsday 2025

**16 juin, 14 h**, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Redécouvrez Ulysse de James Joyce à travers des lectures mises en scène et une présentation des personnages et des lieux du roman. Thé et café seront servis. En collaboration avec le Festival Bloomsday Montréal. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Club de films documentaires — Wilfred Buck (2024)

**18 juin, 19 h**, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Ce documentaire suit la vie de Wilfred Buck, un aîné cri qui a surmonté le déracinement et la toxicomanie en se réappropriant le savoir ancestral des astres et des cérémonies. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Projection de film pour la Journée nationale des peuples autochtones

**20 juin, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Joignez-vous à nous pour une projection spéciale de *Run Woman Run* (2021), écrit et réalisé par Zoe Leigh Hopkins. Beck, une mère célibataire de Six Nations (Ontario), voit sa vie bouleversée par un problème de santé. Avec l'aide d'un entraîneur inattendu, elle se remet à courir – vers la guérison et ses rêves. [westmount.org/evenements](https://westmount.org/evenements)

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Summer Hours at the Library

**From June 15 to September 1**, the Westmount Public Library will be closed on Sundays. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Youth Exhibition - The View from my Window

**Until June 12**, Victoria Hall. In celebration of this year's McEntyre Writing Competition's theme, "The View from My Window," the Visual Arts Centre hosted art workshops for over 200 students from École Saint-Léon-de-Westmount, Westmount Park Elementary, and The Priory. Using a combination of drawing, gouache painting, and collage, each young artist imagined and expressed a view they would love to see from their window. View these creative and heartfelt artworks! [westmount.org/events](https://westmount.org/events)

### Bloomsday 2025

**June 16, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Room. Rediscover Ulysses by James Joyce through staged readings and an engaging introduction to the novel's characters and settings. Tea and coffee will be served. In collaboration with the Bloomsday Festival Montreal. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Documentary Film Club — Wilfred Buck (2024)

**June 18, 7 p.m.**, Westmount Room. This documentary follows the life of Wilfred Buck, a Cree Elder who overcame displacement and addiction by reclaiming ancestral star knowledge and ceremony. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)



### National Indigenous Peoples Day Film Screening

**June 20, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Join us for a special screening of *Run Woman Run* (2021), written and directed by Zoe Leigh Hopkins. Beck, a single mother from Six Nations, Ontario, has her life turned upside down by a health scare. With the help of an unlikely coach, she begins running again — toward healing and her dreams. [westmount.org/events](https://westmount.org/events)



## Rotary report

# Guest speaker Patrick Griffin focuses fourth-generation plumbing business on service to existing clients, not growth

By JENNIFER BALL

James Griffin and Son is a plumbing and heating company that was established in 1900 and has seen innumerable industry changes over its life. The president of the fourth-generation enterprise recently told Rotarians that growing the business is not his priority. His goal is to keep up with industry developments and retain the company's level of customer service.

The Rotary Club of Westmount invited Patrick Griffin, company president, to speak on May 28 at Victoria Hall.

James Griffin and Son has its headquarters just east of Westmount at 2208 de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Griffin said that the team rarely takes on new clients.

"I know that it sounds crazy but if we take on too many new [clients], we will not be able to care for our existing [ones] in the



Patrick Griffin on May 28 at Victoria Hall.

way that they have come to expect and deserve...

"Thanks to the fact that not many can live without indoor plumbing or heat, demand consistently exceeds capacity."

### Reputation over growth

Griffin said that they could hire more plumbers and take on more business, but that it is very important that they not sacrifice their reputation in the name of growth.

"We have managed the business in a way that keeps us aligned to the values that made us successful in the first place."

According to Griffin, their billing breaks down as 80 percent residential and 20 percent commercial and they have expanded their business capabilities into high-efficiency heating, natural gas and gained



James Griffin and Son's first service vehicle was a trusty horse and carriage.

more expertise in new technologies.

They also provide a lot of expertise for insurance companies by providing expert reports and diagnoses.

In 2007, Griffin certified as a master plumber and in 2012 – when his father, James Gordon ("Jim") Griffin, retired – he took over the leadership of the company.

"We have been able to weather more uncertain times: like COVID when people were worried about close contact or during the recent tariff uncertainty, where we have seen a lot of capital investment projects get outright cancelled."

### History

He told Rotarians that his great-grandfather, James Griffin, left his farm in the Laurentians in 1880, aged 15, to come to

Montreal where he found work as a plumber. He opened his own company in 1900 and the original shop was located at 1661 St. Luke St., now known as de Maisonneuve.

"Our shop today is only 550 meters down the road [from its original location], so, we have not travelled too far."

Griffin's father Jim is a member of the Westmount Rotary Club and lives in Westmount. He worked in the family plumbing and heating business for 50 years.

He said, "I took over the business after my dad [J. P. Griffin] passed and I am glad [that isn't] the circumstance under which Patrick [took over]!"

*Jennifer Ball, the reporter who authored this story is a member of the Rotary Club of Westmount.*



James Griffin and Son's original location at 1661 St. Luke St., now known as de Maisonneuve.

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# McEntyre Writing Competition takes on ‘The View from my Window’

By RALPH THOMPSON

The annual McEntyre Writing Competition awards ceremony was held at Victoria Hall June 4.

Former mayor Peter McEntyre (1969-71) initiated the competition in 1972 to encourage creative writing and foster a community spirit amongst youngsters. Those intentions and their consequences were on full display this year as the contest attracted 1,236 entries.

Winners received a certificate, a compilation of the winning stories and between \$20 and \$150.

As well, a number of donated books will be added to the library shelves recognizing their achievements.

“I am so impressed with the variety, imagination and ingenuity of these writers,” said chief judge Liz McCallum. “We had a Grade 1 student who wrote just one sentence and another student who submitted exactly 1,000 words.”

The gathering of around 200 included councillors Elisabeth Roux, Conrad Peart, Jeff Shamie and Kathleen Kez, former councillor Rosalind Davis, and the city’s director of culture, sports, recreation and social development, Dave Lapointe.



◀From left, Lauren Maclean, the Westmont Public Library’s interim director; Liz McCallum, the McEntyre Writing Competition’s chief judge; and Wendy Wayling children’s librarian and competition organizer.

### Mayor thanks employees, volunteers

Mayor Christina Smith thanked the library staff, including interim director Lauren Maclean and children’s librarian and competition organizer Wendy Wayling; the judges, including chief judge Liz McCallum; and the Visual Arts Centre, which had coordinated a children’s art exhibition in the Gallery along the same theme as the writing competition.

Guest speaker Monique Polack – author of over 30 books, including 27 novels – had the audience both young and old in stitches with her energy and enthusiasm.

She emphasized the need for writers to have thick and thin skins, to fail and carry on, to be “curiouser and curiouser,” to not like their writing and then carry on writing, and to use the signature phrases of James Joyce’s character Molly in *Ulysses*: “Yes” and “Yes I will Yes.”

In her remarks, outgoing mayor Smith stated that she wanted to share a little secret, “The McEntyre Writing Competition is my favourite event in the Westmont calendar.”

### McEntyre Writing Competition 2025 winners

<b>Grade 1</b> 1. Miguel Jr Burnier 2. Yuqiao Feng 3. Eva Volvakh HM Milo Kim	Roslyn School The Study The Study Selwyn House School
<b>Grade 2</b> 1. Margaret Pencer 2. Moritz Bossert 3. Benjamin Carsley HM Hudson Stroll	Akiva School The Priory Selwyn House School Akiva School
<b>Grade 3</b> 1. Aila Parker 2. Yasmin Gvili-Unreich 3. Sarah Yufe HM Astrid Waschke	Roslyn School Akiva School ECS The Study
<b>Grade 4</b> 1. Amber Purmal 2. Jonah Levi 3. Laura Millette HM Hannah Ellis HM Julia Shingler HM Aya Ahdab	St. Léon de Westmont Akiva School The Study Akiva School École NDG The Study
<b>Grade 5</b> 1. Nat Godefroy 2. Joshua Rokov 3. Zhenming (Hardy) Han HM Willem-Loup Arsenault	École internationale de Montréal Selwyn House School Selwyn House School St. Léon de Westmont
<b>Grade 6</b> 1. Sienna Purmal 2. Ariella Wilner 3. Maya Wyse	St. Léon de Westmont ECS Akiva School
<b>Grade 7</b> 1. Edi Obenaus 2. Beatrice Kronish 3. Benjamin Fraenkel HM Sarah Sadani	Selwyn House School Westmont High School Selwyn House School ECS
<b>Grade 8</b> 1. Sofia Olmos Forero 2. Laya Khoury 3. Emily Pearce	Westmont High School École internationale de Montréal The Study
<b>Grade 9</b> 1. Jaya Lily Gérin 2. Sabine Chartrand 3. Yangyue Yang HM Abby Iny	Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf Villa Sainte-Marcelline The Study Royal West Academy
<b>Grade 10</b> 1. Grace Fleming 2. Ammar Al-Qadasi 3. Xiran Wang	Westmont High School Westmont High School Westmont High School
<b>Grade 11</b> 1. Yasmine Aouchiche 2. Noa Del Busso 3. Anahita Bagheri HM Luciana Merchan HM Elias Khoury HM = Honourable mention	École internationale de Montréal Westmont High School St. George’s High School Westmont High School École internationale de Montréal



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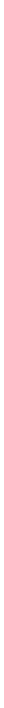
### We welcome your letters

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





Victoria Hall was full of McEntyre winners and their families on June 4.



Winners came in all ages.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

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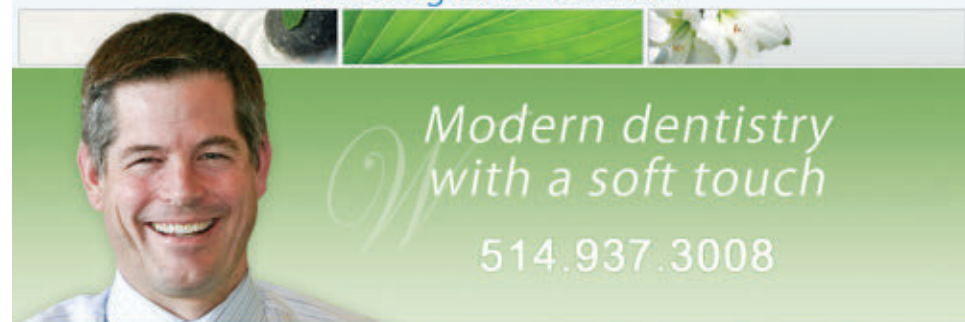
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Barracclough takes over as new minister at Westmount Park United Church

BY JENNIFER BALL

Westmount Park United Church at Lansdowne Ave. and de Maisonneuve will have a new spiritual leader soon. Rev. Beryl Barracclough is an ordained minister, having served with the Summerlea United Church/Southwest United Church in Lachine/Verdun. She is starting in the role of minister at Westmount Park United Church with a service on June 22 and then permanently on August 17.

► Rev. Beryl Barracclough outside Westmount Park United Church on June 3.

We welcome your letters

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

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Travel

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Prologue to Puglia



Harbour at Monopoli.

It’s past the time of my annual visit to Italy – which is usually in March. Italians say “*marzo é pazzo*” (March is crazy) because it rains so much. I have gone precisely for that reason: it keeps most tourists away.

Not anymore. Now, shoulder-to-shoulder selfie takers shuffle slowly everywhere. So I chose Puglia (in June); hopefully far from the madding crowd.

Puglia is the “heel” part of Italy’s “boot” with coastlines on the Adriatic and Ionian seas. It is also called Apulia.

Centuries old, the history of the region dates back to the 8th century BC. Settlements include ones of Greek, Roman and Norman origin.

Then Puglia became part of the kingdom of Naples. And Naples is where I landed, discovering [dipintodiblu.net](http://dipintodiblu.net), a small charming family-owned bed and breakfast with an equally charming – and helpful – owner, Fabrizio Giardino.

Then onto Italian roads. One main highway links Naples to Bari – on the other side of the country. The scenery is superb.

Wonderful gray-leaved olive trees, some with elephantine millennial trunks, stand in silent testimony to centuries of history.

Apparently, there are more olive trees in Puglia than there are people in Italy. Sadly, these sculptural-trunked treasures are failing.

OQCS (olive-tree quick-decline syndrome), a deadly but hard-to-detect disease, has destroyed millions. There is no cure, but there is an early detector: dogs can sniff out a culprit before it spreads via insect visitors.

On the way to Ostuni, I note a few

coned structures known as *trulli*, the world-famous whitewashed stone houses with conical roofs. Legend has it they were a way to avoid paying taxes on residential buildings. As there was no mortar, residents could quickly dismantle their taxable home. (One

continued on p. 18



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Travel, cont'd from p. 17 might proffer an option like this one for the current “tariff” moment, but I digress.)

And, of course, Puglia is famous for food. An easy picnic is the area’s famed bread (durum wheat) and cheese.

Caciocavallo, mozzarella, burrata and stracciatella cheeses are local stars. (Stracciatella is also a Roman soup and, interestingly, a gelato flavour invented in Lombardy.)

Ostuni, with its hill-top citadel, is branded “la città bianca” – “white city” – because of its whitewashed homes and walls. The fairytale town is a maze of one-way winding streets, punctuated with have-to-buy ceramic shops and of course ice-cream shops: gelateria.

Strolling to buy a gelato, I unwittingly take part in the much-loved Italian habit of passeggiata, a late afternoon or early evening leisurely stroll along the town’s main square to see and be seen.

At the antique market, there are discoveries including pignatella vases, traditionally used for Puglia’s famous fava-bean purée. The local alleys, narrow and dripping with charm, offer a choice of restaurants.

Above, local ceramics. Sadly, too heavy to bring home

► A typical alleyway: new built on the old.



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