

Full skating program retained for winter

Arena/pool delay to keep small rink in operation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just as design delays in the arena/pool project allowed swimmers to use the pool this summer, so will further delays enable skaters to have full use of both rinks for the upcoming winter, the *Independent* learned last week.

"With design plans falling behind schedule, it was decided to leave the small rink open," said Sports and Recreation di-

rector Mike Deegan.

Closure and partitioning off of the small rink to allow for the start of the pool area's demolition early this winter was announced June 21 at the neighbourhood information meeting (see June 28, p. 1).

This would have to have been undertaken mid-August at the latest. When this window of opportunity passed, a decision to abandon the plan was made three weeks ago so the fall and winter Sports and Recreation booklet could go to print, Deegan explained.

It is being delivered to all households this week. Registration takes place August 22 to *continued on p. 21*

Residents win earlier access to consultants in traffic study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Representatives of at least three community groups will now be able to meet with consultants sooner rather than later to make input into the city's master traffic plan.

Councillor Gary Ikeman, a member of the project's steering committee, appeared to agree in general to their requests at the August 1 city council meeting after they argued persistently on the value of making direct input in the early stages of the process.

"The answer is 'yes,'" said Ikeman after listening to their reasoning throughout the two question periods.

He later told the *Independent* he would have to discuss this with the steering com-

mittee August 22 (see story, p. 9).

The three groups had previously been told their many briefs and presentations to the city *continued on p. 9*

Sally Aitken (1937-2011)



Leaves living memorials, p. 5.

Photo: Lauren Sweeney

Man arrested for attacking woman in her home

See p. 21

YMCA's Smith sets national, world records



Westmounter Ian Smith, 70, recently set both a world and national record (for his age group) in the men's 50-metre freestyle, and further national records in 100-metre freestyle and 50-metre fly. For the story, see p. 4.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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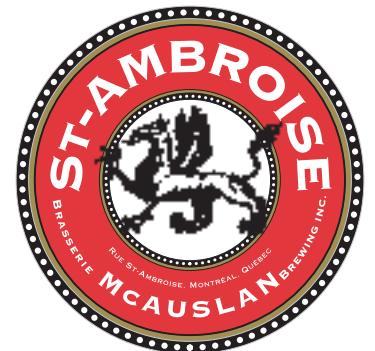
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Redfern demo approval faces at least one appeal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's Demolition committee July 8 officially approved with conditions a request to extensively rebuild and convert the former Reader's Digest building at 215 Redfern into high-end condominiums.

But at least one appeal of the written decision was served on the city last Friday, August 5, the *Independent* learned at press time Monday morning August 8. The appeal deadline was that afternoon.

The appeal, however, by commercial tenant Ceraco Immigration Services, was sufficient to set in motion a new phase of delays requiring a hearing to be held by the city council either at a regular meeting or at a special public meeting.

"It doesn't necessarily end with the council decision either," said assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon in confirming the appeal. Council's decision can be taken to court.

Before the council hearing, all six official interveners from the initial demolition hearing June 28 would be notified of the date and a public notice would be published, Gagnon said.

The one known appellant – an immigration law firm – claims its lease, which expires in 2014, "in no way allows the landlord to demolish the building in whole or in part" or "change the destination" (use) of the building.

The argument was advanced at the initial demolition hearing by attorney Steven Chaimberg, representing immigration lawyer and Westmount resident David Cohen (see story July 5, p. 4).

Developer Joseph Berger, told the *Independent* June 29 he had written to the city to say he was close to signing a deal with Cohen. So far "we have not reached an agreement," Cohen said August 8. Ceraco Immigration Services employs more than 50 people at the site, he added.

The work to convert the building from commercial to residential involves partial demolition and the addition of two storeys along with a rooftop recreation centre – all preliminary plans that have yet to receive final approval before construction permits can be issued.

In the written decision by the Demolition committee, it recommended that a demolition permit be issued conditional to a list of measures to address some of the concerns expressed by neighbours at the initial hearing on the project.

These deal with safety, the construction site, traffic flow and communication with nearby residents. Some of the conditions had been characterized by the contractor as impractical or difficult to fulfill, as reported at the time.

Traffic flow referred

The decision referred the circulation of

construction vehicles (including plans of access to the work site and manoeuvring area) to the city's Board of Inspections and Traffic committee "to assess if it is feasible to temporarily modify the direction of all traffic on Redfern below de Maisonneuve." Currently that one block to St. Catherine is one-way north.

Other conditions called for control of noise levels, measures to ensure the safety of immediate neighbours and a "strongly constructed barricade" forming a solid and painted enclosure of the site.

They also required provision of a communications strategy to update neighbours throughout the construction period.

Lost and found cash

Westmounter Denis Lépine came home on July 8 to an interesting discovery on the street in front of his apartment building: a wallet with \$1,000 cash in it. He used the cards in the wallet to quiz workers in the process of moving a tenant from 215 Redfern, which is scheduled for a major renovation to turn the building into a residential complex. It turns out one of the La Capitale movers was the wallet's owner, who was very appreciative.

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Pull up that ragweed, city says

The city is advising residents and business owners to remove ragweed growing on their properties. City workers will be pulling up the plant growing in public spaces and will advise residents if it is present on their properties, according to the news release.

Ragweed is considered the primary cause of hay fever, which creates allergy symptoms for sufferers.

The annual plant is said to be relatively

easy to pull up and is also destroyed by mowing it before it flowers.

More information can be found on the city's website at www.westmount.org or by consulting the "Ragweed – a nuisance that's nothing to sneeze at!" which can be found at city hall, Victoria Hall, the library, the arena or at Public Works.

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Book drop-off goes awry



A woman driving alone in the wrong direction around the crescent in front of the Westmount Public Library lost control of her grey Mercedes and collided with a garbage can and a tree, August 3 at about 2:15 pm. She did not seem to be badly injured although she was transported on a stretcher into an ambulance. Public Security indicated that it was not clear how the incident had occurred. No other individuals were involved.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Downpour causes sewer collapse

Violent thunder storms bringing hail and a deluge of rain late Monday afternoon, August 1, proved to be too much for the sewers to handle, according to Public Security officials. Manhole covers popped put of place at eight reported locations and a sewer collapse was later reported on St. Catherine east of Lansdowne.

With sewer repairs complete by the weekend, the road surface was expected to be back to normal in time for Monday this week, said assistant Public Works director Andrew Duffield.

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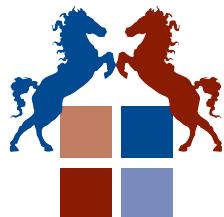
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDGEHILL AREA RESIDENTS SAY THEY NEED STOP SIGN

In an open letter to Mayor Trent, councillors Martin and Ikeman and director general Duncan Campbell, Michael Schwartz writes:

At the last council meeting this month, I raised an issue I was having with the traffic east bound on Edgehill. This was not a new issue I raised.

As you all know a temporary stop sign was placed last year in July. That sign helped to solve the speeding up Edgehill tremendously, and even the noise was almost tolerable.

I do know that traffic (commercial as well as cars) coming from Decarie east-bound has no choice but to go up Edgehill if they are working in the upper part of Westmount as Grosvenor has a no-turning traffic sign in the morning. That is understandable. But work with us.

I understand that issues take time to resolve, however a simple stop sign would solve the problem of traffic speeding and noise up Edgehill.

Westmount has a problem with noise as indicated on its website and in the news. Why does it not have a problem with noise and speed on Edgehill?

I suggest:

- A temporary stop sign be installed again, and/or
- Police monitor the street between 7 and

9:30 am, and between 5:30 and 7 pm.

I was told that the last stop sign received complaints. Were they from drivers in a hurry, not from an area near Edgehill?

Since the complaints might have caused the removal of the stop sign, I think we should know who really complained. I only heard great things about it.

The mayor has stated that Westmount is our city. I understand large costly projects take time. But a simple sign will make the residents on western Edgehill safer and happier.

Let's just get it done or let us know why it is not being looked after to satisfy some Westmont residents. Even if it must be another temporary sign.

MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, THE BOULEVARD

Editor's note: See related story, p. 9.

TO THE PUNKS WHO STOLE MY BIKE:

Here's what you did. And yes, the building has video cameras so you are on film.

When you entered the parking garage at 235 Metcalfe at 9:30 pm July 30 (it was open because of some glitch with the sensor), you tried to open all the doors of the lockers and the parked cars. And then you rode off on my bike.

This bike means nothing to you. It was old but I had had it re-done with new brakes, new gears, new tires and a new seat. It was like an old car with a new en-

gine.

This bike had been with me on many Tours de l'île events, trips down the sea-way, rides to work and other ways to get around town without using a car. It was my warm weather friend.

There was a u-lock on the cross bar for my trips to the stores, a pink bandanna holding it in place. Also pink was the ribbon on the handlebars to remember a friend lost to cancer.

Smith sets swim records for age 70+

After competing as a swimmer internationally at a much younger age, 35 years went by before Westmounter Ian Smith decided in 1997 to take up the sport again.

The pay-off for the 70-year-old came on June 25 and 26 at the 2011 Colonies Zone LCM Championship Meet held in Middlebury, Vermont, where he set a world and national record for his age group in the men's 50-metre freestyle, and further national records in 100-metre freestyle and 50-metre fly.

Smith was at the meet representing the Masters swim team, based at the Westmount Y.

See photo, p. 1.

All of these things meant something to me. I always thought that the old frame, the only part of the bike still original, would deter theft.

Your Saturday night pranks have robbed me of more than my old bike.

A police report has been filed. Photos are on record.

Was it worth it to you? Because for whatever you got at the pawn shop, it cannot compensate for the loss I feel.

ANNE SUTHERLAND, METCALFE AVE.

Vic Village merchants plan another sidewalk sale August 19-21

Following the successful street festival held this spring in the Victoria Village area, the Sherbrooke Victoria Merchants' Association is preparing for another sidewalk sale from August 19 to 21.

According to Germain Gauthier, who runs the North Face boutique on Sherbrooke St. and who is helping organize the event, many of the merchants find that a second sidewalk sale is useful for clearing stock at the end of the season.

"It also helps bring people into the neighbourhood while things are quiet when a lot of people are on vacation in July and August," he said.

The merchants will be displaying their wares from 11 am to 5 pm during the three days of the sale.

- MCB

Correction

The new annual cost of an on-street parking permit for a dwelling's second car has gone from \$240 to \$320, a smaller increase than what city council had originally proposed. The reduced price hike was modified July 4 contrary to what we reported July 12.

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In NDG & Hampstead last week:

- Residents demand stop sign at bumper car intersection
- NDG Arts Week planned for late August

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Softball tournament benefits Open Door



Supporters, staff and clients of the Open Door drop-in centre on Dorchester Blvd. in Westmount clowned around for a photo by the Independent after playing in a series of fundraising softball matches staged on July 16 at the Westmount Athletics Grounds (WAG). More than \$850 was raised during the event. Seen here from the left are John Lillo, Andrew Wallin, Ray Duke and Alicia Zwicewicz.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Sally Aitken (1937-2011)

Leaving behind living memorials

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A minute of silence was observed at the August 1 meeting of city council in memory of activist and former councillor Sally Aitken, who served on council from 1983 to 1991.

As one of Westmount's most respected citizens and volunteers, she defied conventional attitudes to bring her avant-garde ideas for social and environmental responsibility into everyday reality.

None bear her name, but all wear her stamp. Among them are recycling, pesticide control, legalized nursing homes, access for the handicapped, subsidized housing for seniors and the Healthy City Project. All are now living memorials.

Aitken died at home July 31, where she had been in palliative care following the discovery of malignant brain tumours some three months earlier. She was 73.

During that brief period, she was visited by some 200 friends and colleagues she had engaged in her human rights and social causes, sharing memories of experiences and achievements as related in an

Independent profile June 1.

"I'll think of this last chapter as one of the happiest phases of our marriage," said Allan Aitken, her husband of 49 years, last week. "It included times of great joy for us."

Sally, as she was known by so many, is also survived by sons Ian and James, daughter Jennifer, eight grandchildren and a brother, Bill Drysdale of Mozambique, as well as sisters-in-law Sarah Stephenson and Jane Aitken.

Born Sarah Jean Drysdale in Montreal, Aitken attended ECS and then business school in Boston, working in Bermuda and New York before obtaining her BA from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia).

Memorial service Sept. 7

A private family gathering was to take place this week, to be followed by a memorial service at Victoria Hall September 7 at 4 pm.

Despite walking with a leg brace most of her life after contracting polio at age 4, "I never let it get in my way," Aitken explained recently. She also overcame a series of other health problems in the last 10 years that confined her to an electric scooter but did little to dampen her participation.

Throughout, she never complained but rather had a "self-deprecating sense of humour," recalls Mayor Peter Trent, who became a colleague and close friend.

"For everyone," he said, "Sally was the model of someone with guts, stamina and remarkable human spirit. As she became less and less mobile, she seemed to become more and more determined not to let her impediment be the victor. In her case, I think it made her a better person."

She was also undeterred by put-downs

from those who thought her ideas too radical or going against mainstream Westmount.

Community involvement

From the time she married and began raising her family at 95 Arlington, Aitken became increasingly involved in the community. She initiated Children for Peace, presented briefs on education reform as co-chair of the Roslyn School Committee and worked at the Westmount Y.

She also served as president of the Westmount Municipal Association in 1980 and helped bring Neighbourhood Watch to Westmount.

In 1983, she took her ideas into the political forum, representing Ward 4 as a neophyte councillor. She served on the councils of Brian Gallery and May Cutler, and was a library trustee.

She founded the Seniors of Westmount Action Group (SWAG) and became a prime mover of controversial legislation in

social and environmental matters.

As the prime mover behind the founding of the Healthy City Project (HCP) 20 years ago, "she had new ideas, marshalled the community and never gave up," said former councillor and HCP colleague Tom Thompson. "If we are going to be even further ahead in sustainability in the next 20 years, it will be because of the work Sally began and the encouragement she continued to provide."

Aitken went on to become vice-president of Polio-Quebec and helped compile two books on the disease. She worked for rehabilitation and was instrumental in creation of the handicap parking signs now used in car windows.

Recognition of her efforts included Quebec's Mérite Municipal award for community service and the YMCA's Community Peace Medal for 2000. She was also named Volunteer of the Year for 2000 by the Westmount Municipal Association.

RBC's Victoria branch raises money for Y's Strong Kids



The Sherbrooke/Victoria branch of the Royal Bank presented a \$1,000 cheque to the Westmount Y in support of its annual Strong Kids Campaign. RBC staff raised the money through bake sales and donations. Branch director Sue Lapenna, first row left, and her staff made the cheque presentation to Y director Gary White, first row second from right, and third from right Vanessa Valente, community initiatives coordinator of the Y, on July 20. The campaign is annual and raises money to ensure that its programs remain accessible to children with special needs who require one-on-one support, or to children who cannot afford the full cost of programs. So far this year, the Y has raised just over \$29,000 of its goal of \$58,000. To make a donation, contact Valente at 514.931.6770 ext. 230 or vanessa.valente@ymcaquebec.org.

Photo: Denise Mpekios

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Two-month review to follow arena/pool mock-up

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents can expect to have some two months to provide feedback after a mock-up or model is presented showing the final arena/pool plans, it was revealed at the city council meeting August 1. No dates were suggested.

This is the estimated period of time that the council needs to approve the plans before preparatory work can begin for the launch of tender bids, said Patrick Martin, project committee chair.

No set dates for the tender call were mentioned, and Martin confirmed the next day that “we have no timeframe.” In

Pool users first to be consulted

City pool users were the first group to be consulted in a series of focus-group-type meetings on current plans for the new arena/pool project.

The sessions kicked off with a meeting Thursday night, August 4, at city hall which was held behind closed doors to the press or city council representatives.

Invitations were extended to a small group of about 12 chosen from various segments of residents using the outdoor pool, according to city Communications head Brigitte Stock. These included parents with young children, seniors, swim teams, persons with disabilities and others.

It was not yet known when feedback from other groups such as users of the rinks would be sought. The user sessions were announced by Mayor Peter Trent in a progress report sent to residents during the week on June 12.

a June letter to residents, a target of late fall was mentioned by Mayor Peter Trent.

Meanwhile, the project is now going through the process of meeting with user groups for feedback and input on the current draft plans, Trent said. The first one, involving pool users, took place last Thursday (see story, same page).

Trent also told questioners that, as previously mentioned, the city would not move forward with a “winning” bid for the project that exceeded the \$37-million budget and that he would not comment on strategy or hypothetical situations if tender bids exceeded that amount.

Keeping costs down is one reason for the delay in the final design plans, Martin said.

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New Recreation programs listed for registration

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A brand new Westmount women's choir and the start of a girls' indoor soccer league are among several new recreational initiatives planned by the city for the fall and winter season, according to Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan.

These are included in the offerings listed in the new activities booklet going to every home in time for registration August 22 to 31. This is the period when Westmount residents will be allotted guaranteed space in most of the programs that are not limited by number restrictions.

The hockey and other skating programs are relatively unchanged owing to being able to keep the two rinks in operation for another year, Deegan said. (See story, p. 7).

Steady increases in the demand for girls' soccer has been hobbled by lack of space. Now, it will receive a shot in the arm, he said, with a move by the city to rent time from Selwyn House at the school's gym. As a result, sports coordinator Anitra Bostock is “hoping to form a soccer league.”

Among other new programs are those called Boot Camp Fitness, New Yoga Kripalu, Saturday Science for Tots (ages 3 to 5) and Saturday Science for Children (ages 6 and 7).

“We're always trying to come with new programs and trends, and replace those that are falling out of favour,” he said.

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Sherbrooke water main work wraps up a week early

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Despite several obstacles that had to be overcome, the city's high-profile work to replace the water main on Sherbrooke between Roslyn and Victoria wrapped up Friday, a week ahead of schedule.

A large gas line that was in the way, work at the intersection with Grosvenor and several other items added to the complexity but failed to derail the timeline, said assistant Public Works director Andrew Duffield.

The outage of traffic lights at Victoria July 29 was unrelated to the work, and power was restored after the weekend, he said.

The water main project required re-routing of busses, temporary water supply lines to homes and businesses and the frequent presence of Public Security and police officers to direct traffic, prohibit left turns for eastbound traffic and assist pedestrians.

Greene and other work

Hydro Westmount work to upgrade the electrical network under Greene Ave.

south of St. Catherine was to resume this week after the construction holiday with work between Selby and St. Antoine (see story July 12, p. 14).

It was originally thought this phase of the work might temporarily close the Greene access to highway 720 (the Ville Marie Expressway). But this may not have to happen, said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

Major street reconstruction, including water main replacement and new street lighting, has been finished on Holton.

On Elm, the final phase of rebuilding the actual street was to start this week for scheduled completion September 9.

On Windsor, work was also scheduled to start Tuesday, August 9 on the installation of new sidewalks to be followed by the new roadway for completion September 30, Duffield said.

Also starting this week is the installation of temporary water lines on Upper Roslyn. This is a precursor to the water main work expected to finish mid-September.

Communities in Bloom judges impressed by Westmount



Seen here during a reception held on August 5 in the art gallery at Victoria Hall, from left, are Mayor Peter Trent, Stephen King and Bill Hahn.

Westmount made a positive impression on two Communities in Bloom judges, who toured the city last week to assess its programs and actions in several categories, including horticulture, heritage preservation and the environment.

Stephen King from Nova Scotia and Bill Hahn of Ohio have been travelling in Canada and the US this summer as part

of Communities in Bloom's first international competition.

"You have an absolutely beautiful community," said King, who praised Westmount for its outstanding floral displays. Hahn said Westmount's employees "are doing a good job promoting quality of life and preserving your heritage."

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Stop signs, bumps must mesh with traffic plan

Edgehill residents want speeding curbed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A group of residents petitioning the city for a stop sign and/or speed bump on Edgehill at Upper Lansdowne may have to wait to see how this would fit into the city's new overall traffic plan, which is not expected until year end.

That's what Michael Schwartz was told by Mayor Peter Trent at the August 1 council meeting when he presented a petition signed by representatives of 11 properties that touch on the steep hill rising from Roslyn and The Boulevard. Schwartz's

Ikeman foresees two hours of presentations

Logistics have yet to be decided concerning an opportunity for some community groups to make verbal presentations to the city's traffic plan consultants.

Councillor Gary Ikeman said August 4 that this will have to be discussed at a meeting of the master plan's steering committee August 22.

City director general Duncan Campbell, who chairs the committee, has been away and did not attend the August 1 council meeting when this was raised.

Personally, Ikeman said, he foresees the format as being a couple of hours being set aside one day for a limited number of groups or people with "global traffic issues" to present short summary briefs of information they have already submitted to the city. It would be a one-way presentation, not a debate.

"This is an opportunity we will extend to them as a courtesy so they will know they have been heard," he said.

By global issues, he said, he means people or groups with broad traffic concerns for bettering the community such as cycling, and the issues of Lansdowners. "We are not talking about someone wanting a stop sign or scrambled crossings. These are matters for the city's traffic committee."

The consultants are experts who already have written information from these groups in hand and are well aware of the problems. "I doubt that anything that can be said will influence or change the final outcome," he said.

property is wedged between The Boulevard and Edgehill.

Schwartz told the council that speeding and noise had become unbearable and presented a danger, as also stated in the petition. The petition also asks the city to enforce the 30 km/h speed limit and a regulation that trucks may not deliver before 7 am.

Schwartz has been asking the city for speed control measures for more than a year. He appeared at council July 4 to ask why a temporary stop sign, which had successfully addressed the problem, he said, had been removed last September after a couple of months (see July 12, p. 7).

He claimed he had been unable to receive any answers from requests to some members of council and the director general, Duncan Campbell, who had had the stop sign installed initially.

Schwartz pointed out that if Sunnyside, in particular, could have stop signs and speed bumps within every block from Victoria to Upper Belmont, why couldn't Edgehill – which had become an access route between the upper levels and The Boulevard because because of traffic restrictions the city had put on other streets?

Trent said the city couldn't put stop signs everywhere. They had to fit into the overall plan. But he agreed to look into the request given a survey on Edgehill showed cars were speeding.

He handed him a copy of a letter dated July 26 from Campbell outlining the situation, which Schwartz had not yet received.

Trent reiterated a lack of police resources to monitor speeding but local Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde, who was in attendance, agreed to the installation of the mobile lighted speed indicator.

The reason the stop sign was removed, according to Public Works director Marianne Zalzal, who heads the city's Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC), is that it did not conform to the norms set down by the MTQ (the Quebec ministry of Transport).



Traffic: 'engage residents'

continued from p. 1

had been forwarded along with other data for consideration by the Genivar team, whose preliminary recommendations would be submitted to council members and then public consultation.

Leading off, Patricia Dumais of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) said that to be productive, their meeting should come during the current phase of the process. It was "worth noting," she said, that the public had participated with consultants "at each step of the way" in the recently completed master traffic plan in Plateau Mont Royal.

These, she told the *Independent*, require stop signs to be positioned only at intersections where there is sufficient competition between traffic on each street according to a specific ratio. This turned out to be unwarranted at this intersection where there was significantly more traffic on Edgehill than on Upper Lansdowne.

In fact, she said, the purpose of stop signs is to control traffic movement, not speeding. Calming devices, such as bumps and humps, are designed for speed control.

One of the mandates of consultants preparing Westmount's master traffic plan is to study the rationale for so many stop signs, bumps and speed restrictions in the city, she said. It would seem that many do not adhere to current traffic norms and have proliferated over the years. One problem with so many stop signs is that people tend to ignore them.

Schwartz, who is determined to pursue the issue, said logic dictated that a stop sign be put at the intersection regardless of norms.

He later said in the 13 months since he brought the problem to the attention of the city, "Thank God there's been no accident. But I've put them on notice now."

WWCA colleague Dan Lambert said that a "dynamic interchange" with consultants was more effective in explaining concerns than written documents.

Making a formal request for early intervention on behalf of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), vice president Paul Marriott argued that "input is what drives output."

While Dan Taddeo of the Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC) pointed out that given "the nature of the citizenry," the city should "try to engage citizens" in the creation of the master plan by inviting all interested parties to make input.

City Public Works director Marianne Zalzal, who heads the city's Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC), told the *Independent* that the consultants had been driving, cycling and walking the streets to collect and validate the data they had already been given.

Their initial "diagnosis" was slated to be presented to council at an orientation meeting August 22 to ensure they were "on track" before presentation of a preliminary report.

Tentative timing for a public consultation meeting to present this report was planned for the end of September or beginning of October. It is not known how this schedule might now be affected by the meeting of some groups with the consultants earlier in the process.

The Genivar team, including Eric Peisel (the project manager) and Paul Tétreault (assistant project manager), began work in May. Final recommendations are expected by year end.



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On the Market

Edgehill property mixes indoor and outdoor beauty

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The most expensive house in Westmount currently on the market, at press time, sits atop Edgehill Rd. on the corner of Lexington. Trees and bushes surround the light-coloured brick, English manor style house, a five-minute walk from Summit Woods.

Listed with Marie-Yvonne Paint of Royal LePage at \$7,495,000, the house at

205 Edgehill, built in 1913, has many modern and luxurious features, including a large indoor swimming pool and sauna in the basement, an elevator to all floors, a large modern kitchen, clean modern marble bathrooms, three garages, a large parking area and bachelor apartment.

The lot has many mature trees and a well-maintained perennial garden with a small waterfall. The secluded rear garden has a fishpond and plenty of lawn space.

Passing through the front door, the large and spacious reception area presents a full view of several living areas, including a formal dining room, music room, sitting room and a winding staircase.

The faux-beamed ceiling completes the old English estate character. The floor-to-ceiling oak wainscoting surrounding the reception hall is bleached, keeping the area bright and friendly. The staircase is wide and sweeps past large windows and a view of the lush back garden.

The four story house (including the basement) has five bedrooms, three full bathrooms and three half bathrooms.

Municipal property taxes for 2011 were \$35,786 and school taxes \$7,885.



Exterior look at 205 Edgehill and its gardens.



The property's indoor pool.

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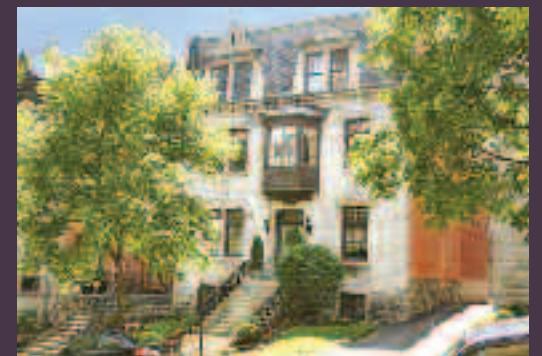
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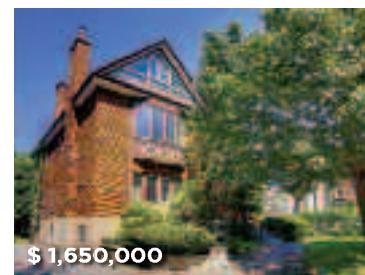
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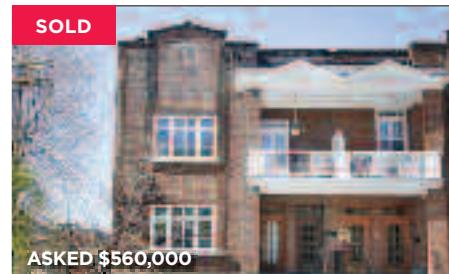
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continued on p. 18

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1250 Greene condo project gets under way



From left, are architect Brian Burrows; Phil Furino, director of operations for Métro Inc., which owns Les 5 Saisons; Mayor Peter Trent; Westmount city manager Duncan Campbell; Jacob Attias, president of Ramco Development; and Stephen Kaplan, Bryan Kaplan and Danny Proulx of Reliance Construction, which is building the project.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

The first phase of construction for the much-anticipated 1250 Greene Ave. condominium project got under way on July 15, with a groundbreaking ceremony attended by project developers, partners and

officials from the city of Westmount. Located at the southwest corner of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd., the luxurious six-storey building will have a 5 Saisons food store on the ground floor.

Golden smiles at lawnbowling tourney



Saskatchewan lawn bowler Grant Wilkie, left, took the gold medal at the 2011 Canadian Junior Championships, defeating fellow team Saskatchewan member Michael Pituley (who took the silver medal) by a score of 21-18, August 6, at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club. In the bronze medal match, Braeden Campbell from Nova Scotia beat Ontario's Josh Cameron 21-15 to claim the bronze medal. In the all-Ontario girls' medal match, Christine Schuknecht, right, defeated Kaitlin Ryan 21-11 to become the 2011 Canadian Junior Champion. In the bronze medal match, Jaymee Sidel of British Columbia beat Shaeleigh Spracklin of the Pierrefonds Lawn Bowling Club 21-7 to capture the bronze medal.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

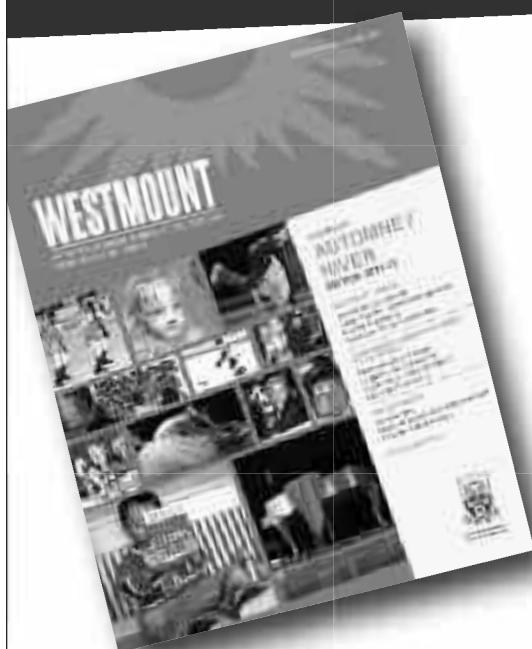
Trio ticketed at Summit

Tickets of \$217 each were issued to three young men found at the Summit lookout August 1 at 1 am, Public Security officials said. Aged 20 to 25, they were described as living in Montreal, Brossard and Laval.

Patient returned to hospital

A 35-year-old suicidal man was reported to have been taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé August 1 after being found on a bench by a public safety officer at 2:30 am. The man, accompanied by his wife, claimed he wanted to die, Public Security officials said. He had been staying at the nearby Y residence on Tupper St. while in town to undergo surgery at the Montreal General and had apparently left the hospital of his own volition.

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Hogg Hardware, located at Sherbrooke and Victoria, will be giving items to the international aid federation's Quebec chapter's second bazaar, which takes place on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11 at its headquarters (2330 Notre Dame W., three blocks east of Atwater).

Businesses and people are invited to

drop clothes, ornaments, kitchenware, books, jewellery and toys at the organization's HQ or call for pick-up (contact: Marie-Alberte Soudan, 514.904.3232 or soudanma@oxfam.qc.ca).

Oxfam-Quebec was founded in 1973 and currently has 172 projects in 23 countries. Two particular targets of the group are improving youth nutrition in Peru and supporting women cultivators in Niger.



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

The Westmount Public Library **summer film club** begins today with *Wartime in Winter*. Every Wednesday afternoon, a film will be shown at the library with discussion to follow. *Gazette* film critic and Westmount resident Brendan Kelly is invited guest on August 17 to discuss *Le Bruit des Glaçons* and the World Film Festival.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Atwater Library's **annual lawn book sale and barbecue**, 10 am to 3 pm. Donations of books and DVDs in good condition (no encyclopedias, text books, out-of-date computer books and *National Geographic* magazines) are accepted at the drop-off location on Tupper St.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Summer concerts in the park with **Robert Burman Trio** at the Westmount Park lagoon, 2 to 4 pm.



From left, Westmount resident and volunteer Béatrice Kowaliczko, Alan Hogg of Hogg Hardware and Oxfam-Quebec fundraising director Marie-Alberte Soudan.

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continued from p. 14

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Little Bear sidewalk sale to benefit Gerdy's Rescues

Little Bear pet store will be having a sidewalk sale Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21 to benefit Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions. Pet items, toys, accessories, clothing, food and grooming will be available. There will also be a raffle. The shop is located at 4205 St. Catherine St., corner Greene Ave.

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Shy guy



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Club*

CYNTHIA LEE

Peppy is a shy soul and kinda' quirky to boot. He's a return from adoption, meaning a home for him did not work out because while he became attached to the lady



Peppy

of the house, he was fearful and uncertain around her husband. When push came to shove between the two, Peppy was the odd man out. Go figure.

This two- to three-year-old Shih Tzu poodle mix has been at the SPCA emergency shelter for a long time and has fallen through the cracks. He is joyful pup, full of personality but in some scenarios he can be a handful.

For starters, he can get along great with some dogs. He doesn't nip but can get rough in canine play. Other times he's the perfect gentleman.

These days at the shelter, Peppy has been a delight with men and women, but he can get protective of one person. His original owners said that he was great with their small children but when they noticed signs of food and toy possession they worried for the future with little kids around.

Lately, there have been no such issues but a new home with older kids or a sole owner is preferred. His people should be active, as he loves to walk and run and play as well as held. Peppy needs an experienced owner, who will give him a little structure and correction.

Do shy nerds melt your heart? Peppy could be your perfect match. Please contact SPCA emergency shelter at 514.915.7311 or adoptions.spc@gmail.com.

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Vol. 5/14

Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Activités automne et hiver

Le nouveau Guide des activités de culture, sports et loisirs arrivera bientôt chez vous. La date du début des inscriptions pour les activités est le lundi 22 août. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌻



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Rendez-vous à l'étang du parc Westmount les dimanches 17, 24 et 31 juillet à 14 h pour les concerts d'été avec Mary Ann Lacey Quartet, The Organ-ization et Tom St-Louis respectivement, ainsi que les 7 et 14 août avec le Carlos Jimenez Quartet et le Robert Burman Trio. En cas de pluie les concerts auront lieu au Victoria Hall, 4626, Sherbrooke O. Consultez l'horaire complet dans la section *calendrier* au www.westmount.org. Info : 514 989-5226.

Shakespeare in the Park

La troupe *Repercussion Theatre* présentera *MacBeth* de Shakespeare au parc Westmount cet été le mardi 2 août et le mercredi 3 août à 20 h. L'entrée est gratuite mais les dons sont acceptés. La troupe sera également de retour les 20 et 21 août au parc Westmount. Visitez le www.repercussiontheatre.com. Info : 514 916-7275.

Mots et Musique

Deux après-midi de musique et de poésie d'artistes du quartier. L'événement débutera à 14 h jusqu'à 16 h les dimanches 20 et 27 août près de l'étang du parc Westmount. Apportez votre chaise. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

Poésie en plein air

Une soirée de musique et de poésie d'artistes du quartier. L'événement débutera à 18 h jusqu'à 20 h le mercredi 31 août près de l'étang du parc Westmount. Apportez votre chaise. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226. 🌻

DATES À RETENIR

Le 14 août à 14 h

Concerts d'été : Robert Burman Trio
Parc Westmount

Le 6 septembre à 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Herbe à poux : rappel à tous

À Westmount, les résidents et commerçants doivent s'assurer qu'il n'y a pas d'herbe à poux qui arrive à sa floraison sur leur propriété. Renseignez-vous en consultant le site web de la ville; vous trouverez des photos et d'autres informations. Des inspecteurs remettront un avis si l'herbe à poux est détectée sur une propriété privée. Si vous observez une présence d'herbe à poux dans un espace public, nous vous prions d'appeler le Service des travaux publics immédiatement pour demander qu'il soit enlevé. Info : 514 989-5268. 🌻



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club du cinéma d'été

Avez-vous une passion pour le cinéma? Alors notre club de film d'été est tout à fait pour vous! Joignez-vous à nous tous les mercredi après-midi du mois d'août pour regarder d'excellents films et ensuite en discuter. Brendan Kelly, chroniqueur artistique pour le journal *The Gazette* viendra parler du film, *Le bruit des glaçons* (en français avec sous-titres en anglais) le mercredi 17 août. Âges 13+. Info : 514 989-5386

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer au Scrabble et aux échecs? La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu le vendredi 19 août de 14 h à 21 h. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

Soirée de cinéma en plein air

Venez regarder un film en famille sous le ciel étoilé au parc Westmount, le vendredi 26 août à la tombée du jour. Apportez vos chaises pliantes et couvertures! Info : 514-989-5299. 🌻



SPORTS & RECREATION

Fall and winter activities

The newest Culture, Sports and Recreation activities guide will soon be delivered to your door. Registration for activities will begin Monday, August 22nd. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌻



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer Concerts in Westmount Park

Rendez-vous at the Lagoon in Westmount Park for the Summer Concert Series, Sunday July 17, 24 and 31 at 2 p.m. featuring the Mary Ann Lacey Quartet, The Organ-ization and Tom St-Louis respectively. The Carlos Jimenez Quartet and the Robert Burman Trio will also play on August 7 & 14. In case of rain, concerts will take place at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. See the full schedule in the events calendar at www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5226.

Shakespeare in the Park

Repercussion Theatre returns to Westmount Park this summer on Tuesday, August 2nd and Wednesday August 3rd at 8 p.m. with their production of Shakespeare's *MacBeth*. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Additional performances will take place August 20 & 21. Info: 514 916-7275 or www.repercussiontheatre.com.

Words and Music

Join us for two Sunday afternoons of music and poetry from 2 to 4 p.m. on August 20th and 27th at the lagoon featuring local performers. Bring a chair. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226.

Poetry in the Park

Join us for a music and poetry event from 6 to 8 p.m. on August 31st at the lagoon featuring local performers. Bring a chair. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226. 🌻

DATEBOOK

August 14 at 2 p.m.

Summer Concerts: Robert Burman Trio
Westmount Park

September 6 at 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall



PUBLIC WORKS

Ragweed reminder

In Westmount, residents and business owners are responsible for ensuring that ragweed is not left to flower of their property. Check the City's website for photos and other information about the plant. Inspectors will issue reminders where ragweed is detected. If you find ragweed on any public property, please contact the Public Works Department immediately to ask that it be removed. Information: 514 989-5268. 🌻



LIBRARY

Summer Film Club

Do you have a passion for film? If so, our Summer Film Club is for you! Join us every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. to view an outstanding film and then discuss it afterwards. Brendan Kelly, Entertainment columnist for *The Montreal Gazette* will be our guest reviewer for the film *Le bruit des glaçons* (in French with English subtitles) on Wednesday, August 17. Age: 13+. Info: 514 989-5386.

Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess or Scrabble? Our club will meet on Friday, August 19 from 2 to 9 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

Movie Night in the Park

Come watch a fun family film under the stars in Westmount Park on Friday, August 26 at dusk. Don't forget your lawn chair and blankets! Info: 514 989-5299. 🌻

Tree walk through Westmount Park



Bronwyn Chester (facing the camera), welcomed about 20 people August 3 to her “The Trees of Westmount Park” walk and presentation. Chester writes a weekly column in The Gazette on Sunday and has a blog devoted to the subject (<http://foretmontreal.blogspot.com/>). In the two-hour walk, Chester identified more than 50 trees in 15 tree families in Westmount Park including the giant northern red ash behind her in this picture. The Rotary Club of Westmount will be publishing a “Trees of Westmount” 2012 calendar in early September that will include some comments by Chester and the city of Westmount horticultural staff.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Man arrested for attacking woman in her home

For this crime story,
see paper archive.

Arena project

.....
continued from p. 1

31 (see story p. 7).

Also delayed by the final design plans is the start of preliminary infrastructure work the city might have to do to divert water or sewer services for the new arena/pool. This was also depicted at the June 21 meeting as taking place under the north-south stretch of the arena drive and Academy Rd.

Work to rehabilitate a major 16-inch water main from 1901 that runs through Westmount Park near the bike path, however, is slated for the fall. This is a major Montreal supply line laid under de Maisonneuve (originally Western Ave.) when the street went through the park.

While unrelated to the arena/pool project per se, it passes immediately north of the proposed underground rinks.

Concrete falling

Large chunks of concrete fell off the building at 5010 Sherbrooke St. on the morning of July 31, Public Security officials report. PSOs called firefighters just after 9 am to remove additional portions that seemed in danger of falling. The area was taped off and Public Works crews set up barricades. The building is situated at the southwest corner of Claremont.

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Sisterhood's garden tours exudes 'wows'



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a hot humid day in mid July, a group of garden lovers toured Westmount to view a range of flower-filled sites, each elegantly marked with purple ribbons.

The event was the 6th annual Summer Garden Tour organized by the Sisterhood of Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Ladies – and one garden-loving gentleman – admired gardens created by Westmounters **Sharon Spalding** and **Robert Graham**, **Louise** and **Sam Segal**, **Sheila** and **Robert Garfield**, **Evie** and **Issie Wiseman**, **Pilar** and **Douglas Avrith**, **Simin Sarikhani**, **Dana** and **William Bell**, and **Carole** and **Filip Papich**.

Gardens ranged from a professionally cared for estate, complete with water lilies ("Wow, water lilies!" could be heard among the on-lookers), fountains and a jaw-dropping view of the city. Also visited was a charming little English country gar-



Westmount resident Dana Bell in her garden (on the tour) and Myvan Dinh Robic.

den with an Italian cherub statuary, lovingly-cared for by the owner's own hands; a pretty front area full of flowers, including what looked like tall waving asparagus



Westmounters Avi Marcovitch, Harriet Muroff and Elaine Dubrovsky.

spears; and an utterly lovely boxwood-lined garden, complete with blue hydrangea and a welcoming teak chair set, its patine nicely worn by rain.

After the tour, ladies lunched at the Shaar, where a very healthy buffet offered different coloured quinoa dishes, balanced by divinely sinful brownies!

Also present was artist **Susan Pepler**, whose paintings of flowers and butterflies decorated the luncheon area.

Noted discussing the different gardens

were committee members Westmount residents **Harriet Muroff**, **Avi Marcovitch**, **Dana Bell**, **Amy Kornik** and **Elaine Dubrovsky**.

Some of the other lovely ladies included **Gloria Schacter**, **Shirley Cohen**, **Cheryl Shuchat**, **Jessica Miller**, **Lynn Yaffe**, **Margaret Adams**, **Terry Suss** and **Ruth Ballon**.

Marcovitch, dressed in flowing white with pale ocean blue accessories, announced that monies raised went to Meals on Wheels.



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TMR 1190 Kenilworth \$2,395,000
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WESTMOUNT 492 Strathcona \$2,175,000
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WESTMOUNT 70 Forden \$1,975,000
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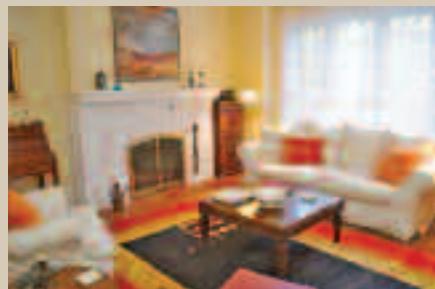
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TMR 235 Highfield \$1,750,000
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WESTMOUNT 234 Metcalfe \$1,695,000
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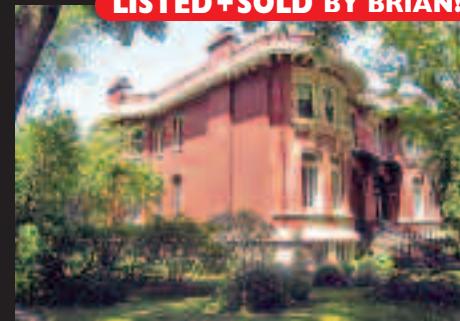
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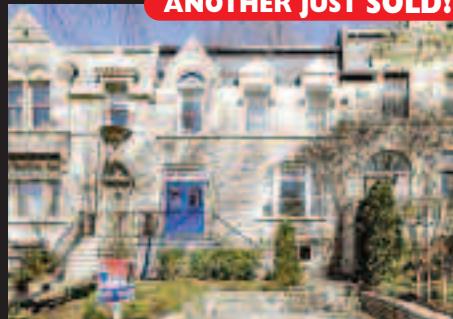
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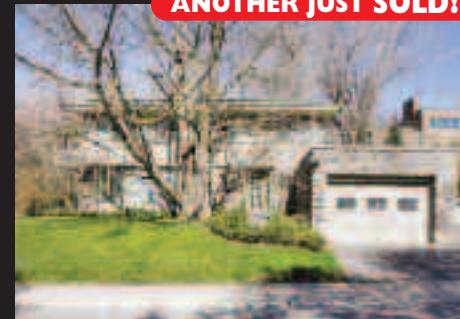
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