

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 6 No. 12a

We are Westmount

December 4, 2012



Arena beams arrive

The roof beams of the Westmount rec. centre's rinks started arriving December 3. This 107-foot one came east along St. Catherine St., crossing Lansdowne at 12:20 pm. It is shown here being reversed into the building site shortly afterwards. See story, p. 10.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Letters p. 6
Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 14

'Extras' add up to 1% of arena budget at mid-way mark

Added decontamination cost to be determined, Trent reports

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Half way along in the building process of the new recreation centre, extra costs so far are "within one percent" of the approved \$38.3-million budget, Mayor Peter Trent was expected to announce at the city council meeting December 3, after press time. These are in addition to the \$1-million extension of the second ice rink.

As well, a higher than expected degree

of soil contamination is anticipated to exceed a budget provision of \$1 million for decontaminating the site, but exact figures won't be known until excavation for the new pool is complete.

"I felt it was important for me to report to the citizenry at this stage," Trent told the *Independent* in disclosing the new information.

The "extras" are re-ported to include the cost *continued on p. 10*

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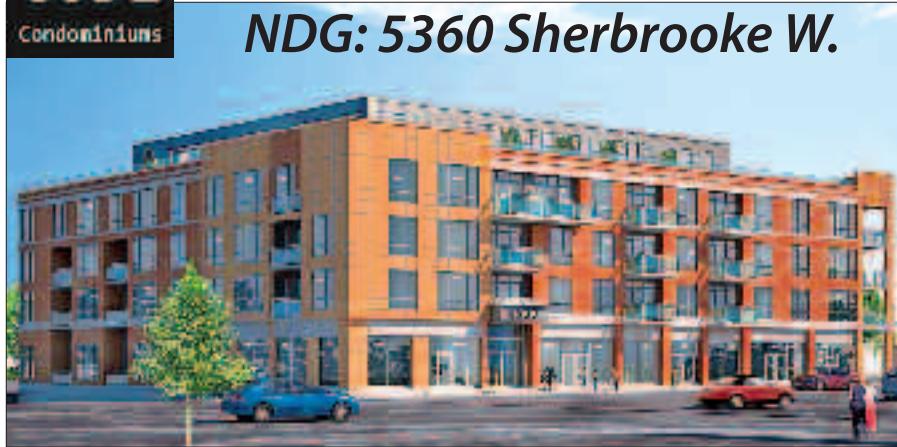
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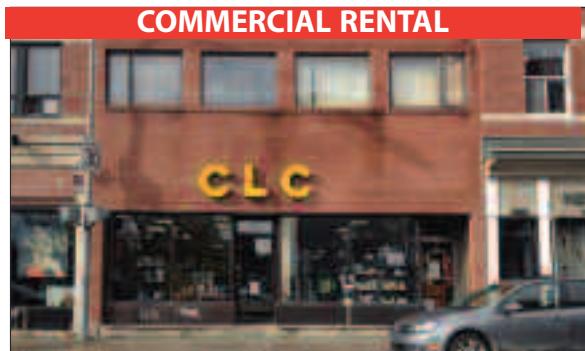


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Public Security launches undercover watch in Vic village

Graffiti suspect chased, caught in dead of night

For story, please consult paper archive.

.....
continued on p. 21

Greene treats, green treasures



Crafter Lynn Kerr attends to her table at the Treats & Treasures sale at Centre Greene. Its annual bazaar was held November 17 and featured 26 crafters, including many local artisans and goods from co-operatives in Africa, Sri Lanka and India, as well as an Empty Bowls event for the centre's food programs. The event raised \$3,000. According to organizer Erica Bloom, "a wonderful warm atmosphere permeated the centre during the day as old and new friends of all ages enjoyed the event... A most important goal of Centre Greene is to associate our community centre with organizations that are committed to fair trade as well as being environmentally respectful."

Photo courtesy of Erica Bloom

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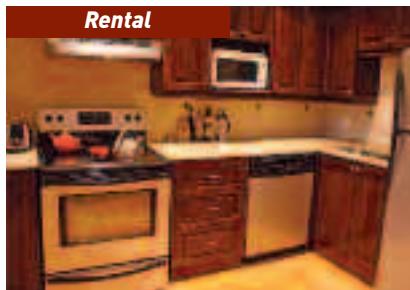
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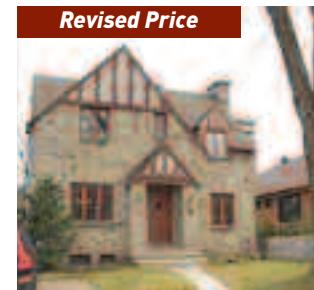
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Garneau announces for federal leadership



Marc Garneau, MP for Westmount-Ville Marie, who announced to the media and supporters on November 28 that he will run for the leadership of the federal Liberal Party, greets Fabrice Rivault, a former staffer, at the event while Margaret Guest, riding constituency office assistant, looks on. He spoke at La Plaza Holiday Inn in downtown Montreal. Garneau accused the Harper government of being a government of "hypocrisy and deceit," "rewarding the few at the expense of the many." He said the economy is his priority while accusing the Conservatives of relying on natural resources at the expense of manufacturing, aerospace, biotechnology, green technology and agriculture. The new leader of the party will be chosen April 14, 2013. Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Station 12 Reports

SUV vanishes from driveway without a trace, theft at ATM

By ISAAC OLSON

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

A full-size SUV, parked in the owner's driveway on Blenheim Pl., vanished without a trace sometime between the evening of November 28 and the next morning, according to Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier.

She said the owner parked her 2012 Toyota Sequoia in her driveway at around 10 pm, but when she woke up at 4 am, her vehicle was gone.

Gauthier said there was neither broken glass nor any other clues as to how the thief got into and stole the large SUV. There were no witnesses, she said, and police are still investigating.

Gauthier said vehicles can be targeted even when parked in the owner's driveway, and, while it is still not clear how this heist was performed, she said it is important that people do what they can to secure their vehicles no matter where they are

parked.

Vehicle security can range from ensuring the doors are locked to installing an alarm system. An anti-theft device that locks the steering wheel can also deter or slow down would-be thieves.

Wallet stolen while woman uses ATM

A woman using an automatic teller machine (ATM) at Place Alexis Nihon withdrew cash on November 24, but when she went to put her card and money into her purse, she discovered someone had stolen her wallet, said Gauthier.

The woman had put her bags down not from her sight, but the suspect managed to swipe the wallet unnoticed. In fact, said the constable, there are no clues or witnesses.

"Be careful," said Gauthier. "With the shopping season under way and people carrying lots of cash, we see more of this type of crime. When using an ATM, grabbing a coffee or dining at a restaurant, be sure to put your bags between your legs so no one can get your wallet or other personal items."

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Lone meeting attendee pleased with change

Combustible material to be permitted at property line

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The proposed elimination of a provision in the city's building by-law requiring that masonry or other non-combustible building material be used within three feet of the (side) property line for porches and decks will give residents more leeway in building, city officials said at a public meeting on the subject November 26.

The change would allow for wooden privacy screens, for example, and would apply only to structures that are at least three feet (one meter) above ground. It is not applicable to a habitable porch or structure.

The existing provision is more stringent than the Quebec Building Code and is now obsolete, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham. Houses are safer from fire, given the installation of smoke detectors and the absence of wooden sheds often used for storing combustible items.

"It just makes sense," she said in chair-

ing the meeting at city hall, attended by one resident.

It was also pointed out that many semi-detached houses already have adjoining roofs and wooden balconies.

City Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier described the existing requirement for non-combustible material as leading "to a lack of coherence in the design and construction of balconies and decks on buildings containing one- and two-family dwellings."

The proposed change is expected to be adopted at the December 3 council meeting, according to city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

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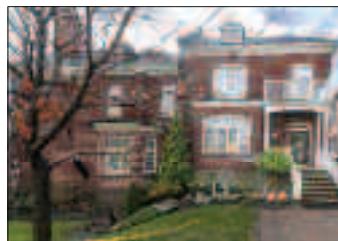
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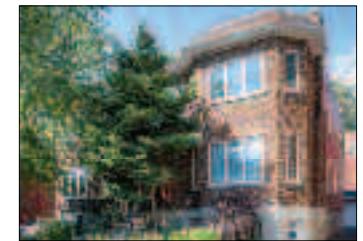
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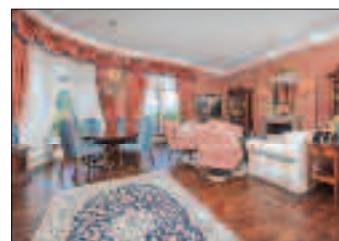


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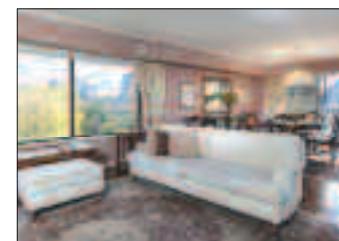
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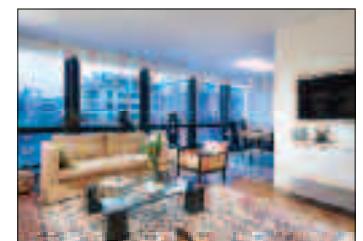
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YES, WALKERS NEED LIGHTS AT EVERY INTERSECTION

In response to Steve Myro's query ("More bike paths would reduce city revenue more," November 27, p. 6) about whether it is necessary for the city to install automated pedestrian crossing lights at every intersection – in a word, yes.

To point out the obvious, both drivers and pedestrians are human beings. Why should the humans who are in cars get the benefit of an automatic traffic light, but not the humans using their own two feet?

TIMOTHY SLONOSKY, REDFERN AVE.

CREW DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT BREAKING BY-LAW

I read with interest the article "Public Security reports reflect community concerns," (November 27, p. 1), especially with regards to construction complaints. I was assured by someone from the city that: We have ticketed Pomerleau for the infraction (\$1,250), and we will ask again that they refrain from commencing any machinery prior to 8 am on Saturdays, including hammering.

This has done nothing as every Saturday morning around 7 am, the hammering and sawing start again.

I have also been woken up before 7 with their trucks backing up into what was the tennis court by bright headlights shin-

ing into my apartment. The truck was just parked there with the headlights pointing at our building.

It doesn't seem that the construction crew care about the city by-laws at all.

BELINDA BOWES,
ACADEMY RD.

THANKS TO COUPLE FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ANOTHER

A thank-you to the young couple who helped me on the evening of November 28. I was walking on St. Catherine St. around 9:30 pm, returning from the Forum. I saw a young lad loitering at the corner of Greene and St. Catherine. I continued and when I realized he was behind me, I turned and screamed. He was a foot away from me, and we both just crossed Clarke Ave. He continued walking "beside" me.

A moment later, a car drove past, stopped and a young gentleman got out to ask me if I was okay. He asked if I wanted a lift, which I accepted.

I had an uneasy feeling on first seeing the young lad, and I felt I was at risk of having my purse stolen.

I wish to express my thanks to the young couple who so graciously helped me.

ANGIE CANERS,
KENSINGTON AVE.

NO TO CYCLING DEFEATISTS

Regarding his letter, it is gratifying to see that Mr. Paul Marriott actually did some investigation ("Open bike path does not mean lost \$," November 27, p. 6). He found out that the grossly exaggerated parking revenue losses quoted by many letter writers because of the winter bike path were quite unfounded.

Actually these losses do not exist. Such exaggerations do not help public understanding and demonstrate a prejudice against cyclists.

One of these writers recently wrote on behalf of the installation of bicycle chicanes similar to those used in the Laurentians on le Petit Train du Nord ("Turnstiles the only option for safe bike path," August 21, p. 6). He failed to advise the reader that the actual reason for these chicanes in the Laurentians was to prevent all-terrain vehicles from usurping that wonderful trail.

If only such efforts could instead be directed against real dangers: drivers using cell phones, gunning through lights just turned red, speeding in school zones. Let us hope this is not a generational effect, that those of us brought up in a city that gave into dominance by the car cannot see its dangers. The statistics though are very telling.

On a more positive note, it was refreshing to see Dan Lambert present a different vision for Vic village that would actually make it pleasant to be on its streets ("Make Vic village more appealing by reducing cars," November 6, p. 7). Obviously, Mr. Lambert has been influenced by Jan Gehl, whom he invited to Westmount last year. This international architect has successfully, through the years, changed moribund parts of Copenhagen, Sydney, London, San Francisco, Pittsburgh and New York into lively human areas. He even gave NYC's Times Square back to the pedestrian.

I hope the few defeatist letters rebuffing Mr. Lambert's ideas will in time turn to creative solutions for Sherbrooke. Again it may be a matter of jumping forward into the 21st century.

ROGER JOCHYM,
LEWIS AVE. AND
MEMBER OF THE WWCA

Cooper's hawk sighted on Melbourne



A Cooper's hawk eating a pigeon, as photographed by Melbourne Ave. resident Lisa Osterland in her backyard.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Osterland

At 11:15 am on November 24, Lisa Osterland of Melbourne Ave. witnessed a rare wildlife sighting in her backyard. A Cooper's hawk was busily picking away at a dead pigeon, which Osterland said it had "probably just taken down, as it was rather engaged with plucking out its feathers with its sharp beak." She recognized the bird of prey as a Cooper's hawk, which she confirmed upon using binoculars and matching its description in a bird book.

David Bird, a McGill professor in the Avian Science and Conservation Centre, positively identified it as a Cooper's hawk, when the photo was sent by the *Independent* to him. "Looks like an adult female, who is very healthy," he said in an email.

Osterland recounted that the hawk ate the pigeon meat for about an hour, then it flew up into her spruce tree and "rested/digested there for another hour." Later, it flew back down and ate again, and then left.

She said she has seen various hawks, as well as bald eagles flying over Westmount in the 10 years she has lived in the city, but this was the first time she had seen this type of hawk. "It was a treat to have it be so close...magical and majestic – nature in action," she said.

– KM

Park camera blocked

A public safety officer patrolling Stayner Park November 22 at 1:50 pm discovered someone had blocked the security camera at the comfort station with a piece of paper. On checking further, the camera was found to have captured an image of a teenager covering it at 1:15 pm.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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Opposing viewpoints expressed

Shorter construction hours – a ‘balancing act,’ meeting told

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Reducing the city’s construction hours is a challenge in balancing the needs of residents for peace and tranquility against those of developers to deliver projects as quickly as possible, contractors to find

The public meeting was called to solicit input into the city’s proposal to eliminate evening work entirely – so residents could enjoy being in their backyards over dinner hour – and to start an hour later Saturday mornings (see November 13, p. 3).

The new times would permit construc-

needed to lift it into place is not.

“I hear you,” Poirier said.

By-laws too vague

John Fretz of Lansdowne explained that regulations were vague. “What about tree felling?” He said more guidance should be spelled out in the by-laws. “I don’t think we should be using our Public Security officers to educate contractors.”

Both the Redfern developer and contractor said the shorter Saturday hours would pose special problems in the winter when time is taken up melting ice and snow off equipment and construction before work can even begin. It will also be hard year-round to get workers within those hours, because they traditionally start early and want to be home with their families in the afternoon.

Addressing the proposed new hours, developer Berger calculated that cutting out three hours a day, six days a week would add two and half months a year to a project. “You do the math.”

While Lulham said the intention was to study input from the meeting before adopting by-law changes in May, contrac-

tor Foglietta asked that they apply only to new permits.

“I’m already committed to subcontractors,” he said. Changes at this point would add to his budget and delay the work, which is expected to be completed in September 2013.

“The problem,” said Poirier in conclusion, “is drafting a good by-law that can be enforced.”



Participating in a dialogue on proposed changes in construction hours November 26 were, from left: John Fretz, Jason Berger, Roberto Foglietta, Maureen Kiely (behind) and Timothy Slonosky.

workers, and do-it-yourselfers wanting to work on their own property on a Saturday.

“It’s a matter of striking a balance” between these groups, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham time and again throughout a public consultation meeting November 26 on modifying by-laws regarding construction noise.

And the handful of people attending the session at city hall represented that balance as three residents called for even greater restrictions than those proposed by the city, offset by a developer and a contractor who claimed the proposed new times would add more than two months a year to a big project. This would boost costs and make it difficult to find construction workers willing to work in Westmount.

“If it takes two months longer, then so be it,” stated Maureen Kiely of The Boulevard, who asked for a moratorium on Saturday work except for homeowners.

“Many of our residents are on call 24/7, and more and more people are working from home,” she explained.

The latter point was pursued at length by Timothy Slonosky, who lives across the street from the condo development at 215 Redfern, whose developer, Jason Berger, and contractor, Roberto Foglietta, expressed their concerns.

tion on weekdays from 7 am to 6 pm (instead of ending at 9 pm). Saturday work would be permitted between 9 am and 6 pm rather than 8 am to 8 pm. The status quo would be maintained in prohibiting use of heavy equipment on Saturday and banning all work on Sundays.

Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, who presented the changes, said she has noticed at most big sites a lot of workers have already left by 3 or 3:30 pm.

“My concern is the heavy equipment that sometimes happens on Saturday,” Slonosky said. He described living near a worksite that “goes for weeks and months on end, 11 hours a day. I have a home office and I can’t use it.”

Noting “a man’s home is his castle,” Kiely said noise travels easily through residential sectors, and “I would like to see Saturday ruled out completely,” except, she added, if it’s homeowners wanting to work on a front door, for example. She then proposed 9 am to 2 pm.

Lulham said she felt the annoyance of Saturday construction was more a matter of education, enforcing the current restriction on heavy equipment and clarifying some anomalies. She cited the example of stone cutting being permitted, which “you can hear all over the neighbourhood,” while the heavy equipment

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Westmount's salt-spreader pilots safety cameras

Helping the salt truck's blind spots to 'see'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the arrival of the season's first snow last week, a pilot project to equip one of the city's eight salt trucks with cameras was put to the test.

"We're making some adjustments, but it worked very well," said Robert Talarico, the Public Works fleet superintendent. "The driver's vision was excellent. If we can prevent an accident from happening, that's what we're here for."

"It's a matter of safety," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal in explaining how the department is continuing to forge ahead in helping to reduce the likelihood of pedestrian accidents involving snow removal trucks.

The salt truck is the first to be equipped with side and back cameras, which enable the driver to see blind spots while reversing or making right-hand turns, she said. The rear camera automates as soon as the truck is shifted into reverse.

The truck was presented in May at an exhibition held by the Quebec Chapter of the American Public Works Association, where "we were trying to encourage other

municipalities."

This year, the city has also received word that 15 of the 32 snow removal trucks it has hired for this season through a broker for independent truckers will be equipped with the side-guards piloted by Westmount on some of its own trucks three years ago (see story November 17, p. 3, 2009). Five are now so equipped: four dump trucks and the same salt-spreader now outfitted with the cameras. Last year, side guards were also installed on 10 of the hired trucks.

Used in Europe

Widely used in Europe, these guard rails are designed to protect against pedestrians slipping under the wheels as occurred with the fatal accident December 19, 2005, involving Jessica Holman-Price at Strathcona and Sherbrooke.

The loss of Jessica at age 21 has since taken her mother Jeannette Holman-Price on a "Jessica Campaign," crusading for the mandatory installation of the safeguards throughout Canada.



Inside, mechanic Tony Iorio looks at the camera's screen, which aims to cover the blind spots. Inset: Fleet superintendent Robert Talarico points to the rear camera at the top of the salt truck.

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Krushelnyskis honoured by Selwyn



Long-serving Selwyn House employees Christine and Marc Krushelnyski were inducted as honorary Old Boys during the school's Founder's Day on November 22 by the Old Boys' alumni association. According to Selwyn House, Marc began his career at the school as building and grounds supervisor in 1980, while his wife Christine started the following year, running the school's print shop and book room. Marc also built "elaborate sets" for school plays, and Christine helped with the costumes. They also contributed to the organization of the giant yard sales for school fundraising. "The couple were always dedicated volunteers outside the school, purchasing food and cooking meals every year for the homeless at St. Stephen's Church." Marc retired in 2007. Christine still works at the school. "They were certainly the heart of the school in the 1980s," said one 1990 grad, "and I am sure that guys from all four of their decades at the school feel the same way."

Photo courtesy of Selwyn House

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Roof structure changes to steel

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to truck in 37 steel beams 105-foot long from the Beauce region of Quebec for the roof of the new Westmount arena is a feat in itself, according to Councillor Patrick Martin.

The massive beams, which are six feet high, weigh 15 tons apiece and are scheduled to be arriving two at a time up Glen Rd. to the site over the next two weeks.

They will be placed east-west on concrete columns to support the roof over the two ice rinks. Shorter steel beams will also be used. The roof will then be covered by a foot or more of earth banked up to harmonize with the northern section of Westmount Park, Martin explained. Landscaping details have yet to be worked out.

“The main thing is to get the building enclosed by January so work can go on in-

side during the winter.”

While the original plan called for roof and beams built entirely of concrete, he said, the contractor, Pomerleau Inc., proposed the steel “at no extra cost to us” as part of the design-build contract, eliminating the risks of winter weather. The steel, which comes from a factory, is more efficient to handle at this time of year than concrete, which needs to be poured on site. It is also expected to save on installation time.

Officers help caregiver

Public safety officers were called to a house near Clarke Ave. November 24 to assist an elderly woman who had fallen and could not be lifted back to bed by a caregiver, officials said. The woman was not reported injured.

Arena costs, cont'd. from p. 1

of removing additional asbestos found in the walls during demolition of the old arena, and upgrades the city has requested for inside the new arena: tile in washrooms and architectural block in corridors.

A system of extras and credits would be subject to negotiation with the contractor, Pomerleau Inc., he explained.

Any cost “overage,” he added, would have to be approved by council, the reason why the recreation centre budget inten-

tionally did not include a contingency provision.

On track for gold

Work is proceeding close to schedule, he added, and is on target to achieve the Gold rating of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Trent also said the city’s fundraising target has been raised from \$5 million to \$6 million to help fund the extension of the second rink, and the city is continuing to pursue infrastructure grants to offset these costs.

The overall project budget adopted February 6 includes the city’s \$33.5-million design-build contract with Pomerleau, as well as other items, which include decontamination estimates. These were based on findings from 43 bore holes reported to have indicated that much of the soil could be accepted for re-use by the Turcot project.

A greater degree of contamination was found during excavation for the below-ground arena, however. This required more costly transport to a site in St. Sophie, north of St. Jérôme, according to Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the project steering committee.

A press conference and site tour was planned for December 4 as the roof’s steel beams delivered December 3 (see story, p. 1) were expected to be hoisted into position so the underground arena could be enclosed before winter (see story above).

Evolution of below-ground project costs, Feb. 2012

Pomerleau design-build contract	\$33.5 million
Tennis courts, rebuilding	\$0.3 million
Project management, other future fees	\$0.8 million
Treatment of contaminated soil	\$1.0 million
Quebec sales tax (after 50% rebate)	\$1.7 million
Sub-total as per loan-by-law:	\$37.3 million
Other expenses already paid	1.0 million
Approved sub-total	\$38.3 million
Rink extension (May 2012)	1.0 million
	\$39.3 million

People's Gospel Choir Concert

Saturday
December 15
7:30 PM

Sponsored by
The Rotary Club of Westmount
www.rotarywestmount.org



Victoria Hall 4626 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 children under 12, general admission

Tickets available: CLC Bookstore 4257 St Catherine W — Scotiabank 1326 Greene Ave

By telephone: People's Gospel Choir: 514-771-2250 — Rotary Club of Westmount: 514-935-3344

Simply Wonderful catering opens retail outlet



Simply Wonderful owner Pamela Erskine, left, stands with Trevor Potter of the Welcome Hall Mission during the catering company's additional location opening on November 20. Five percent of frozen foods sales will be donated to the mission.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Following the departure of Tango Martini from the corner of St. Catherine St. and Abbott Ave., Simply Wonderful catering has expanded into the vacant space with a retail showroom.

The building, where the company's catering operation has been based for eight years, is the property of Simply Wonderful owner Pamela Erskine. She has completely renovated the former Tango Martini location.

Whereas Simply Wonderful was a

catering service before, customers can now enter, choose and take home purchases.

"They can come in to purchase our frozen food, which is prepared main courses, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and soups," she said.

Among the guests who attended a grand opening of the new store on November 20 was Trevor Potter, coordinator of family services at the Welcome Hall Mission. Simply Wonderful has decided to donate five percent of its frozen food sales throughout the year to the mission.

Friends' book sale raises over \$17K

The November 24-25 Friends of the Library weekend book sale generated just over \$17,000, according to the organization's president Carolyn O'Neill. This is a semi-annual book sale, now held in Victoria Hall, that sells quality used books. Proceeds go towards building the Westmount Public Library's book collection.

The spring sale is scheduled for April 13 and 14, 2013.

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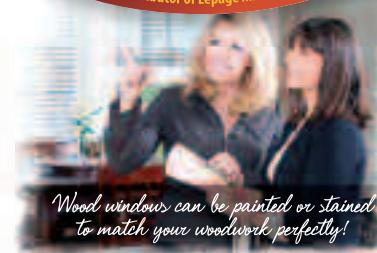
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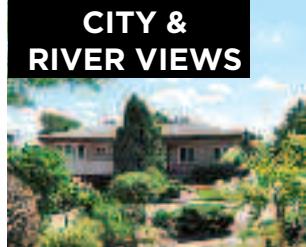
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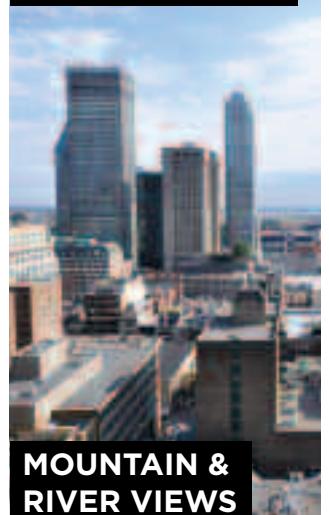
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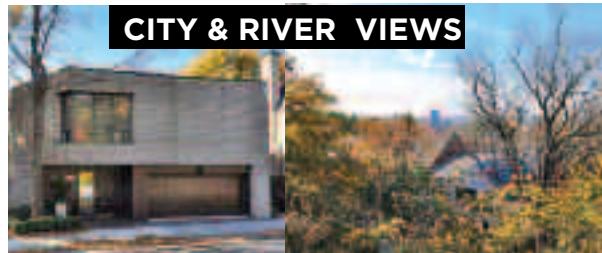


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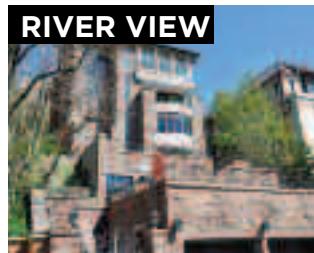
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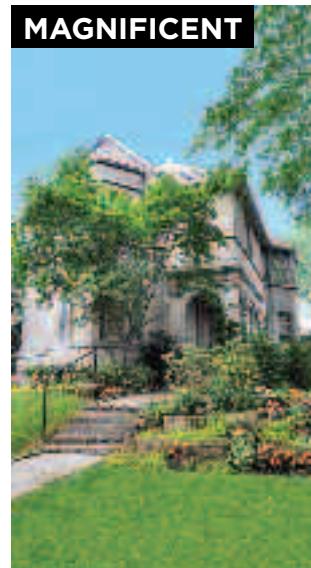
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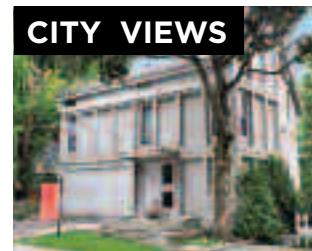


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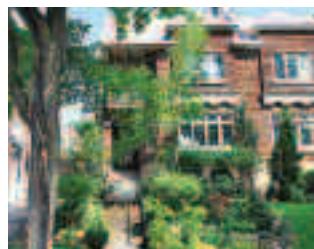
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Greek-Italian elegance abounds at film festival



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The opening reception for the fourth edition of the Montreal Greek Film Festival (MGFF) was held at the iconic Rialto Theatre on Park Ave. October 25.

Westmounters **Susan Alper** and **Vagelis Tasopoulos** organized the VIP cocktail. Tickets were \$40. The Greek wine served was sponsored by the Kolonaki Group.

The festival program explored cultural and social affinities between Greece and Italy. Opening night premiered the musical *Encardia, the Dancing Stone*. The documentary showcased sounds from southern Italy, in particular Calabria and Salento, animated by the lyrics in the “griko” dialect, which is a poetical expression created from Greek roots pronounced in the Italian language.

Guest emcees were Westmounters **Aphrodite Salas**, a well-known journalist who is Greek, along with **Mose Persico**, who is of Italian descent. Attendees included Greek consul general **Thanos Kafopoulos**, a Westmount resident; Montreal city councillor **Helen Fotopoulos**; and **Mary Deros**, cultural communities and youth, and president of the urban planning committee of Villeray-St. Michel-Park Extension; as well as Greek artist **George Georgis**.

Sponsors were BMO and RBC Dominion Securities. RBC attendees were Westmounter **Tony Loffreda**, national client group, Quebec and regional vice president, commercial financial services, there with his wife Angie; **Mario Fiorino**, commercial banking area manager, and **Basil**

Nitza Melas, who sang with the Christina Capobianco Band.

The special evening honoured the *grandes dames* of Greek acting with the screening of *Electra*, interpreted by **Irene Pappas**, and *Stella*, played by **Melina Mercouri**.

Moviegoers also had the rare opportunity to rediscover a famous opera singer, the divine **Maria Callas** in her unique appearance as *Medea*, directed by **Pier Paolo Pasolini**. The official Greek entry for the 2012 Oscars, award-winning *Unfair World* (directed by **Adikos Kosmos**), was also shown.

The film had already won the Silver Seashell Award for Best Director and Best Actor, San Sebastian International Film Festival, 2011; and Hellenic Film Academy Awards for Best Fiction Feature, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor, 2011.



Vagelis Tasopoulos and Susan Alper.

Papaevangelou, investment advisor.

BMO was represented by account managers commercial banking **Terry Tsarouhas** and **Peter Mardakis**.

Festival committee members **Aвра Georgiou**, director, and **Irini Panagopoulou**, coordinator, were very pleased with the sold-out night. Guests were entertained by Cirque de Soleil's



Mose Persico and Aphrodite Salas.

Every year, the MGFF dedicates an evening to a local association representing an area in Greece. This year's tribute was to the Constantinople and Pontian Associations of Montreal.



From left: Mario Fiorino, André Michalopoulos, Thanos Kafopoulos and Tony Loffreda.

Photos: Harry Barbaroutsis



Aвра Georgiou.



Christina Capobianco and Nitza Melas.

Advertorial, by Veronica Redgrave



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I loved the two-way fireplace! One could have a warming fire while entertaining in the dining room; then enjoy the embers on the other side of the wall as guests enjoyed an after-dinner sip. The bedrooms are flooded with daylight. Each has an adjoining bathroom. The Master Bedroom’s bathroom has the perfect ‘good morning’ for couples: two sinks! The bathtub, shower, toilet and bidet sit on heated flooring. *Can life get any more cozy?* Kitchen floors are also heated, so you can slip off the stilettos whilst stirring. Just off the breakfast nook area, I note the terrasse: Of course, it too is heated, so that snow will not congregate too long. I cannot help but feel the international uniqueness of this project. It is *Architectural Digest*, *Town & Country* and *Wallpaper* rolled into one- in Montreal.

A few of my Favourite Things: LED lighting in the kitchen: choose your mood. Motorized shutters. The roof pool! With sink-into-chairs for towel-wrapped moments of peace. SO much cupboard space. iPod outlets everywhere. You can use your iPod/iPhone from afar to turn on the fireplace, lighting, music; create your mood. *How cool is that?* Don’t feel like cooking? The room service menu is the same as the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, with the new (and hot!) internationally-renowned Daniel Boulud resto in situ, by the way. Concierge Service is also linked with the Hotel, the ONLY 5 Diamond Star Hotel in Quebec (there are just 4 chosen in Canada). Valet and indoor parking, of course.



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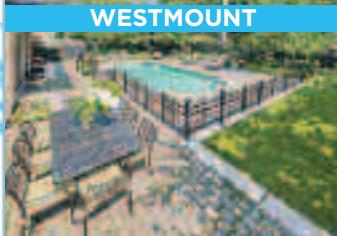
You are invited to view the just-opened model.

I learnt that those who buy now have a selection of finishings. By the end of April, all units will be completed so choices will be limited.

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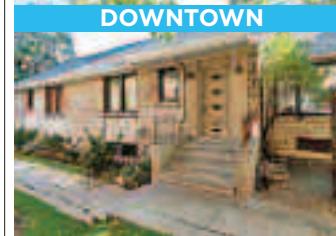
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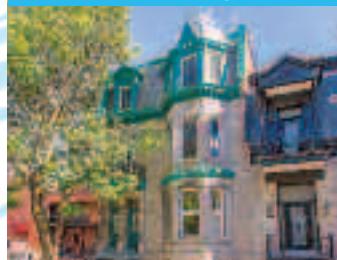
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **"Perfume: Its History, Masters and Myths,"** with Normand Cardella, 5 pm to 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free. Do not wear perfume to this event. Info: 514.989.5299.
- **"Le Dialogue Judéo-Chrétien – L'office du Shabbat et la messe. Y a-t-il un parallèle entre ces deux offices?"** with speakers

University Women's Club of Montreal

Celebration of the Club's **85th anniversary** with the People's Gospel Choir of Montreal. 6:00 pm, Wednesday, December 12, 2012. Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Supper \$30.76, \$40 for non-members. Newcomers welcome. To reserve, call 514-932-3922. www.uwcm.com

Louis Charbonneau et Bruno Demers, 7 pm at Temple Emanu El Beth Sholom. Cost: \$7.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Dramatis Personae community theatre presents *Six Stairways to Heaven*, 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Also, Monday, December 10. Six short plays by various dramatists, directed by Jacqueline Van de Geer. Suggested donation \$10. Info: 514.486.7423, www.theatrewestmount.com.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Montreal Camera Club's member's holiday party and a public presentation of **photographs of African wildlife** "Kenya and Rwanda" with Rick Tomalty, 7:30 pm

at the Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- **Chanukah candle-lighting**, 5 pm to 6 pm at Westmount city hall with Mayor Peter Trent, members of council and the rabbis from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Shaar Hashomayim synagogues. A reception with traditional music, games and food to follow. Info: Community Events 514.989.5265.
- **"Vodka and Latkes"** 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Learn how to make traditional and non-traditional latkes. RSVP by December 7 to rosie@templemontreal.ca or 514.937.3575, ext. 213.
- **"The Cult of Beauty and Comfort"** with Pamela Grimaud, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. "Fashions that Went Against the Grain of the 19th Century Victorian Costume." Free. Register: Circulation desk or 514.989.5299.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Westmount Historical Association presents **"From Farmhouse to New House,"** with speaker Caroline Breslaw, 7 to 9 pm

in the Westmount Public Library. The talk will focus on the evolution of houses on Côte St. Antoine using archival photos. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

- Annual **"super bazar"** 1 to 6 pm at St. Léon Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Clothing, books and music.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Special **budget presentation meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meets to discuss *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, 7 pm in the Westmount Room. Coffee and discussion. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386 or dlach@westmount.org.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



BUDGET 2013 PROGRAMME TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS 2013-2014-2015

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par le soussigné, greffier de la Ville de Westmount, QUE :

- 1° le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2013 ainsi que le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2013, 2014 et 2015 seront déposés pour adoption au cours d'une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount qui se tiendra le lundi 17 décembre 2012, à 20 h dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount; et
- 2° lors de cette séance, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur le budget et le programme triennal d'immobilisations.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 4 décembre 2012.

BUDGET 2013 THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 2013/2014/2015

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Westmount, THAT:

1. the budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2013, and the three-year programme of capital expenditures for the fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the municipal council of the City of Westmount to be held on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke West Street, Westmount; and
2. at said special sitting, the deliberations of the Council and the question period shall deal exclusively with the budget and the three-year programme of capital expenditures.

ISSUED in Westmount, on December 4, 2012.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la Ville/City Clerk

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Majority of October sales over \$2.7 million



Real estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in September 2012, provided by city officials. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.

Westmount real estate prices ballooned in October this year, with five of nine sales of one- and two-family dwellings registering for more than \$2.7 million each.

This is the third time in Westmount's history that five sales in a month have surpassed \$2 million, but the previous times were in June and July this year when the total number of sales was 25 and 27 respectively, so to have that type of volume in a month with only nine registrations is significant.

The average price is \$2,249,167, only the second time in Westmount's history that the average has surpassed \$2 million. In February this year, four of six sales were over \$2 million, and the average was

\$2,286,667.

The highest price among the October registrations went for 22 Edgehill Rd., a detached brick mansion on the south side with a view over the city. It had been completely renovated recently and now has sold for \$4,026,000, the fourth highest registered price in Westmount this year.

The other noteworthy sale involved the former Jack Reitman residence at 780 Lexington Ave., which sold out of his wife's estate for \$3,400,000. Three more sold between \$2.7 million and \$2.8 million.

Lowest price in October involved 69 Clandeboye Ave. at \$863,000; the only other sale at less than \$1 million was for 4450 de Maisonneuve Blvd., classed by the city as a duplex but marketed as a single-family dwelling.

The average mark-up over city valuation was 20 percent, slightly below the year's average (so far), with the highest mark-up represented by the Lexington sale. The only mark-down involved 3757 The Boulevard, which has been listed by agents at least five times in the past seven years and finally brought a cool \$2,732,500 but had a tax value of \$2,850,000.

One more of the new condominiums at

11 Hillside Ave. sold in October, along with two high-rise condos at 1 Wood Ave. and Château Westmount Square. Mark-ups for the latter two were 20 percent and 15 percent respectively, and the year's average to date is 18 percent (as it was in 2011), so there seems not to be any significant movement in the condo market.

Also sold were two commercial/semi-commercial premises on St. Catherine St. between Metcalfe and Lansdowne avenues, as well as a commercial condominium in the ground-level floor at 1 Wood Ave. (4055 St. Catherine St. entrance), returned to the owner who picked it up from a sheriff's sale in September last year, which may have been inadvertently exchanged in various of the deeds involving these previ-



22 Edgehill Rd.

ously-neglected interior storefronts.

Andy Dodge is a residential real estate appraiser. His email address is andy@andydodgeassociates.com.

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Bill 56 mandates schools devise anti-bullying strategies

Hamilton founds LGBT group, looks to city for support

BY MICHAEL MOORE

At a time when schools are mandated by provincial Bill 56 to design anti-bullying plans, Westmounter Elissa Hamilton has witnessed first hand a city that she says either doesn't know about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues or, potentially worse, simply doesn't care.

"I perceive a certain apathy amongst Westmount residents and schools that I think is downright embarrassing," said Hamilton. "I don't feel that gay kids in Westmount should have to look outside of the community for support."

Frustrated by the lack of concern, Hamilton, 32, is starting a support group to give Westmount's LGBT youth a place where they can feel at ease.

According to the non-profit LGBT support organization PFLAG Canada, over a quarter of LGBT youth are told to leave home and 30 percent of all suicides are committed by members of the LGBT community.

The issue of gay bashing rose to national prominence last October with the suicide of Ottawa teenager Jamie Hubley, whose blog, "You can't break ... when you're already broken," chronicled his battle with depression and the taunting he faced in school for being openly gay.

"Bullying is an issue for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation," said Hamilton. "However, the fact really does remain that gay youth are at a much higher risk."

Looking to gain support for her group, Hamilton sent a letter to Westmount city hall in October highlighting the lack of awareness for LGBT issues in the city.

The letter was forwarded to the Westmount Healthy City Project's Community Life Committee for discussion at a recent

meeting. Chairperson Tom Thompson wrote back to Hamilton, saying that while it wasn't the committee's role to establish or help run the group, it would provide a meeting space at the Westmount Y.

While pleased that the Y space was being offered, Hamilton is disappointed that the issue has not elicited a stronger response from city hall.

"Hillary Clinton once said being a leader means being out in front of your people," said Hamilton, "but I've heard next to nothing from [Mayor Peter Trent] about the gay community."

Reached for comment by the *Westmount Independent*, Trent stated that while the city would be willing to listen to Hamilton's specific concerns, he believes it is unfair for her to criticize the city for not taking a public stand on any one specific issue when it lacks a "municipal dimension."

"I have not taken a public 'strong stand' on most other societal problems, too, in that they are not really perceived as residing in the municipal realm," said Trent.

Much of the Hamilton's concern stems from a perceived lack of support in school hallways, where Montreal has lagged behind other parts of the country in adopting pro-LGBT initiatives, she claims.

In October, the Toronto District School Board introduced a new set of guidelines to accommodate "transgender and gender non-conforming students and staff." Edmonton recently hosted a conference discussing the creation of Gay Straight Alliances in schools across traditionally conservative Alberta.

"Being able to go to a meeting where they know there will be people like them can make all the difference for a teenager who feels like they are alone," said Hamilton, adding her emails to local schools went largely unanswered.

Daphna Leibovici, the English Montreal School Board's violence prevention consultant, says the issue of homophobia is one of the major concerns at the EMSB, but admits efforts to tackle the issue are still "taking baby steps."

In June, the Quebec government passed Bill 56 aimed at preventing and dealing with bullying incidents, "in particular those motivated by racism or homo-

phobia or targeting sexual orientation, sexual identity, a handicap or a physical characteristic."

Schools must submit their action plans for dealing with bullying by December 31.

"What we're trying to do is transform a school culture and that takes a long time," said Leibovici. "It's a slow process, unfortunately. [Gay bullying] is a huge issue."

Graffiti, cont'd. from p. 3



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The Underdog Club
CYNTHIA LEE

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But because of his high-prey drive around cats, he certainly should not live with any felines – that would be like asking a chocoholic to bunk down in a pastry shop. He requires an experienced human capable of showing him the ropes, unlike his previous family who just let things slide. Chaos' physical strength makes walking him a bit difficult until he is taught to walk properly on a leash. Some patience will be required.

Chaos also has a defining physical characteristic, which is a lump on his back knee. It has been examined recently and



while not a danger to his health, looks a little funky. Aside from that, he's in excellent shape, and no one would suspect he's 10 years old.

If just the mere thought of Chaos intrigues you, why not come see for him for yourself? Don't believe the naysayers – not all shelter dogs are defective and should be left to wilt. Chaos is a fine example of someone left in the lurch, like most of us have been one time or another. Contact Sophie's Dog Adoption at 514.523.5052 or info@sophiesdogadoption.com. Please be patient: sometimes the folks at Sophie's are overtaxed saving the dogs.

*The Underdog Club:
contact@underdogclub.org.*

One year later, unclaimed bike still there



A bicycle is locked to a parking sign on February 12, 2012, two months after it was first observed locked to the same post.

Photos: Ralph Thompson



In May of the same year, the bike is still there.



The bike is still tethered to its spot on Sherbrooke St. across from the Y at the end of November, almost a full year after the photographer first spotted it. It was noted that no parking ticket or Denver boot had been affixed to it.

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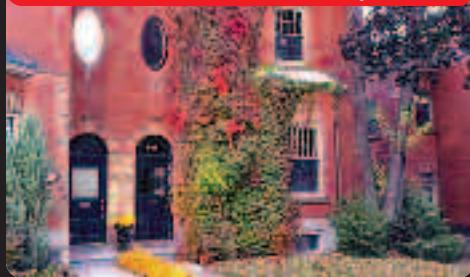
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