

New high for Westmount  
real estate – \$7 million!  
See Dodge, p. 18.



## An Independent welcome to Andy Dodge

Real estate appraiser and expert Andy Dodge has joined the *Independent* team. Look for his real estate columns in these pages, including his first one on p. 18 of this issue.



# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 6 No. 5a

We are Westmount

May 1-2, 2012

Feature story:  
Resident calls for  
public debate on  
Westmount's 'new'  
radiofrequency  
hydro  
meters,  
p. 12.



## Goodbye old arena



Westmounters adorned two outside walls of the arena with goodbyes on April 28. The result was two walls of drawings and cards, the most common sentiment being: "Thanks for the memories and looking forward to the new arena." See other photo, p. 25.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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## Thompson is volunteer of year

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

In selecting Tom Thompson last week as its Volunteer of the Year, the West-

mount Municipal Association (WMA) will recognize someone who mastered the art of effecting change through volunteerism and bringing people together to work willingly.

"I don't believe in fines as a way of forcing people to adhere to regulations," Thompson told the *Independent*. "I believe the road to success is through encouragement."

It's an approach he has used through many volunteer positions, 14 years on city council and in his profes-  
sional career at McGill *continued on p. 20*

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**Contractor moves in equipment to arena/pool site, Ludmer: 'we're still in the game'**

# Written ruling clears way for work to start in earnest

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Superior Court judge Richard Mongeau issued a written ruling April 24, confirming his verbal dismissal four days earlier of a request for an urgent freeze on the city's arena/pool project.

The legal quest was the first step in an overall bid to seek temporary and permanent injunctions against the \$38.3-million project by architect and project critic David Ludmer, Westmount Park United Church and a parishioner, Robert Tait.

While interior stripping of the old arena was started by the city April 20 immediately following the verbal court decision, work by contractor Pomerleau Inc. appeared to gain momentum Monday, just before press time, as work equipment began moving in for preparation of the work site and for installation of trailers this week.

The written court judgment explained the judge's decision that plaintiffs had not

made a solid case for an injunction, one of the requirements for a preliminary project freeze, but it was not known how, or if, the case would be pursued.

Mayor Peter Trent declined to comment on the written ruling.

### To study dossier

Ludmer said he had not yet spoken with his lawyer and said "we'll decide what the best course of action is once we study the dossier."

All options remain open, he said, noting that the request for a freeze was the first of three steps in the legal process. "Unfortunately we lost the first one, but we're still in the game and will take it one step at a time."

In the absence of the church minister, Rev. Frank Giffen, and until a board meeting could take place upon his return, church representatives said they did not know how they would proceed but were disappointed to "lose" and stated they

hoped to work with the city in respect to their community events.

The church is concerned about retaining access to its front door on de Maison-neuve, as well as with possible damage to its building.

Judge Mongeau rejected the urgency argument for an immediate freeze on the project, writing that the plaintiffs had known for several months about the plans but had not taken advantage of the legal

demolition process. They did not use the old arena so would not suffer irreparable damage by its demolition.

Furthermore, the court was "not convinced" that modifications in the Pomerleau plan or project budget had substantially changed the nature of the project from that described in the loan by-law and as argued by the plaintiffs. Therefore a solid case for injunction had not been provided, the judge wrote.



The only demolition being done to the arena/pool on April 30 at 8:30 am was to ... the tennis courts, where workmen were removing the fence. Metal fencing and a container box arrived later in the morning.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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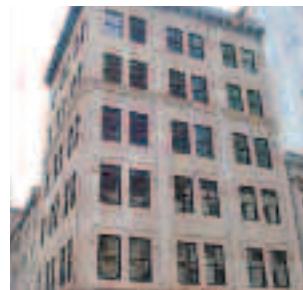
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## Announcement

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We are pleased to announce that two of Montreal's most dynamic real estate firms are joining forces. Under an agreement effective effect May 1, 2012, RE/MAX® du Cartier is acquiring RE/MAX® Westmount.

I am confident that this combination represents the best path forward in terms of building on nearly three decades of success – providing new growth opportunities for our people, while carrying on the tradition of excellence for RE/MAX® Westmount clients.

Going forward, it will be business as usual for brokers and clients at both RE/MAX® Westmount offices – 1314 Greene Avenue and 5673 Monkland Avenue. Former co-owner André Campeau will be staying on and will continue to provide his specialized legal know-how and support.

Although I am relinquishing my administrative role, I am delighted to announce that I will continue to work from the Greene Avenue office as a broker. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many loyal clients I have been privileged to serve, and to assure you that I remain committed to providing my clientele with the highly professional, results-oriented services they have come to expect.



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Neighbours meet with city, contractor, developer

# Work at Redfern site off on 'wrong foot'

LAUREEN SWEENEY

By mutual agreement of neighbours, city officials, the developer and the contractor, construction work at 215 Redfern did not get off on the right foot.

That's why Councillor Cynthia Lulham called all concerned to a meeting at city hall April 24 to exchange views and try to move forward after "numerous" calls she said she had received from residents complaining about safety, traffic, parking and the condition of the worksite.

Permits for exterior demolition and work to convert the former Reader's Digest building into luxury condos were issued by the city March 23.

The neighbours' concerns were many, starting with the street being a narrow one for accommodating all the construction traffic and that it was a busy school corridor used by numerous students walking to and from St. Léon, Westmount High and Selwyn House. Why was it that no flagman was on duty that afternoon at 3:30? That insulation was blowing around and left hanging out of upper windows? That someone was unloading supplies

early Sunday morning? And that a construction truck, photographed in action, was actually driving down the street on the sidewalk.

"Those things should not be happening," Lulham told the contractor. "I think you've got the message that there is a level of dissatisfaction... The goal is to try and make this as painless as possible. Try to make it better."

"It has gone off on the wrong foot," said contractor Robert Ribuffo of Module Construction. "But we're trying to minimize the impact as much as possible."

And developer Joseph Berger said, "We don't want to disturb anyone. If there is any exception, give us a call and we will try to remedy it."

Communication with residents and with sub-

contractors was key, Lulham explained in relating lessons learned from the congested work site at 11 Hillside. And Berger said he would post plasticized notices on the hoarding.



At the end of the Redfern meeting April 24, Councillor Cynthia Lulham (right) speaks with, from left: contractor Robert Ribuffo, developer Joseph Berger, Amara Gelinias of the sales office and attorney Jason Berger.

"With all the subcontractors involved at a work site," she said, "I urge you to develop a communications plan and make them aware of our rules and that there are people living on the street."

Opposite the site on Redfern, there are eight houses with small front yards and the large Redfern Apartments at the corner of St. Catherine. .... Some residents have *continued on p. 26*

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## NOT IN SUPPORT OF FAILED REQUEST FOR INJUNCTION

I would like to clarify a comment attributed to me in an article in the *Independent* ("Court asked to put freeze on arena/pool project," April 17, p. 1). When contacted by Laureen Sweeney, I did say that I was unaware of the church's action until informed by a friend and that I did understand the church's concerns regarding the arena/pool plans (restricted access to the main entrance, possible damage to the building, etc).

What I failed to say and what I would like the readers to know is that I do not agree with or support the injunction.

Cities, towns and villages are not static – changes are a given. All construction brings with it temporary inconveniences for neighbouring properties.

Surely there was a better way for the church to communicate these concerns to our city officials.

One of the things that I love about living in Westmount is that it is a city with the heart of a small town – a place where our city officials are also our neighbours and often our friends.

Involving the courts in our disagreements is not how friends and neighbours should act.

MARY LUND, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## A RIGHT MAYBE, BUT NOT RIGHT

The April 25 edition of the *Gazette* described an information meeting at Concordia University to introduce the front runner for the position of president. A group of 20 students believed that they had the democratic right to disrupt the proceedings using bullhorns and chants to drown out what those in the audience had come to hear. Didn't those in the audience have the democratic right to be informed? Why does one trump the other? What are the rules?

We are not immune to this in Westmount!

The democratic right to file for an injunction in an attempt to stop the first stage of our new recreation centre was invoked by two individuals and one institution. I have somewhat more sympathy for Westmount Park United Church although I'm not sure why. Maybe because it's a church and therefore their motives must be at a high level. Maybe it's because money which could have been used to improve its structure will now be used to pay for court costs and lawyers.

I have no sympathy for Mr. Ludmer – who thought the best location for the recreation centre would be the Glen Yards. When this did not receive support (not even from the Save the Park group), he

spoke out against the project at council meetings – which is his right.

However, to hold hostage the 80-plus percent who responded to the original survey in favour of the project by attempting to get an injunction has the democratic right but it's not right!

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

## DEAR UNDERDOG CLUB

On Sunday April 22, my friends and I held a dog party. It was a birthday party for my dog Henry. He turned 1, and he is a long-haired Dachshund.

It was also my friend's dog's second birthday. He is a Bernese mountain dog named Titan.

It was held at the dog run behind the Westmount arena. Many of my friends and their parents came with donations for your club. We had paw-print cake, the dogs had biscuits, bones and toys. We raised \$172. It was a cold but great day!

CLAUDIA BEATTIE, WESTMOUNT RESIDENT AND STUDENT

## Arena start brings changes to streets

Preparation of the work site this week for the new recreation centre was to close Arena Drive to all traffic this week, city officials said. Academy Rd. becomes a dead end street with approximately two parking spaces removed at the end to provide turnaround room. Some parking space also will be removed from Park Place.

A small portion of the bike path was to be moved slightly to make room for the security hoarding.

## Bulldog found

A bulldog was found running around the lobby of the apartment building of 4560 St. Catherine April 18. It was taken to the Public Security station by officers, who later returned it to the building and found the owner, a new tenant. A warning was issued to obtain a licence and the dog was returned.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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From left: Meagan Goth, Olivia Gurman, Olivia Desnoyers, Claudia Beattie, Vивиanna Galasso and Allyson Rohlicek. Inset photo: the girls with their dogs, including the birthday Dachshund, Henry, and birthday Bernese, Titan.

## Gas leak on Upper Roslyn evacuates homes

The police, fire department and Gaz Métropolitaine were called in after a private company severed a gas line on Upper Roslyn near Belfrage, police said.

The incident took place at 8:30 am on April 25. The contractor, which was doing excavation work on the road, hit the gas line. They called 911 and a perimeter was

set up around the area. As well, some residents were ordered to evacuate their homes.

Gaz Métropolitaine completed the repairs approximately within an hour and residents were allowed back into their homes at around 10 am.

## Point/counterpoint

## In support of Master Traffic Plan

BY DAN LAMBERT

The Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) supports the city's Master Traffic Plan initiative to reduce traffic and promote walking, cycling and use of public transit – collectively called active transportation.

As the negative impacts of motor vehicles become better known, many cities around the world are implementing programs to reduce traffic and increase active transportation. Traffic reduction measures largely consist of limiting traffic capacity so drivers either take alternative routes or switch to active transportation. In the short-term, restricting through traffic in Westmount will result in some drivers taking alternative routes through adjacent communities, however, once those communities implement similar programs, overall traffic will decline and active transportation will grow.

**The shift**

To achieve this shift in commuting from individual cars to active transportation, it is also essential to increase public transit and cycling capacity in parallel with traffic reduction measures. While Westmount does not control public transit, the STM would respond to Westmount's plans by providing increased service.

The potential to reduce traffic and increase public transit was demonstrated last summer when numerous roads and bridges were shut down for repairs. The STM responded by increasing public transit capacity, which a large number of car commuters quickly adopted. Encouragingly, many of those commuters did not switch back to driving when the road and bridge construction was completed.

The objective of Westmount's initiative is not to abolish through traffic but to simply reduce it, so we would like to focus on why Westmount residents should support this initiative. In other words, what's wrong with the current 66,000 cars per day driving through Westmount?

**Health**

Motor vehicles damage one's health in several ways. Vehicle exhaust contains pathogens, which are linked to a range of health problems, particularly respiratory. A health study by Toronto's public health department concluded that traffic-related pollution causes about 440 premature deaths and 1,700 hospitalisations per year. Younger and older people are especially vulnerable. Municipal and provincial gov-

ernments can reduce that exposure by reducing heavy traffic in densely populated communities.

Second, collisions with motor vehicles kill six people and injure 500 every day in Canada. Because of its weight, speed and hard shell, a car travelling at 40 km/hr has an 80 percent probability of killing a pedestrian or cyclist in a collision. In densely populated urban communities like Westmount, pedestrians and cyclists should feel safe from such dangers.

Third, driving daily, without compensating with physical exercise, contributes to obesity, with all its related health issues. Active transportation is one easy way to incorporate physical activity in one's daily routine and thereby remain healthy. For instance, many schools have initiated programs to encourage students to walk or cycle to school to combat child obesity.

**Community**

A significant share of Westmount's public space is dedicated to motor vehicles. So, in addition to increasing the risk of injury to pedestrians and cyclists, traffic creates both visual and noise pollution. Through traffic is particularly harmful because many through-traffic drivers are less concerned about their impact on the community they are transiting – their objective is to get to work or school as quickly as possible.

For these reasons, heavy excess traffic has a negative impact on the character and liveability of our community. If more of our public space were dedicated to wider sidewalks, restaurant terraces, shops, bike paths, etc., our community would acquire a more human scale and become more liveable and attractive. Westmount does not have to be a motor vehicle thoroughfare, as demonstrated by many other communities that have reduced traffic and are now enjoying the benefits.

**Pocketbook**

Road infrastructure is very costly to build and maintain. The more people use public transit, the less road infrastructure is required. Also, health care to treat motor vehicle collision injuries and other motor vehicle-related health problems is costly. Therefore, over the long-term, less traffic would reduce both infrastructure and health costs. While reducing traffic in Westmount alone will not immediately generate these cost savings, they will be achieved in the long-term through traffic reduction programs combined with increased active transportation in commu-

nities all over Montreal.

To conclude, while driving is very convenient, we cannot dismiss the negative impacts of heavy traffic. Therefore, our association encourages residents to support the city's initiative. Furthermore, we urge the city to implement these measures before the start of Turcot reconstruction and the opening of the new MUHC, both of which will add through traffic pressure on Westmount. Several Montreal boroughs have either implemented or are planning traffic reduction programs. We feel it is now time for Westmount to act.

*Dan Lambert is a Lansdowne resident and president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association*

*A resident with different views shared his opinion in the column of April 24, p. 7.*

**Work sites left open**

Public safety officers reported finding unsecured construction sites at 53 and 55 Surrey Gardens overnight April 17. Gates in the hoarding were open and one had come off the hinges.

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## Wealth management advice based on security and stability

In an uncertain economy that has created challenges for many investment advisors and their clients, Denny Matte, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor with Macquarie Private Wealth in Montreal, has delivered a steady investment approach that draws a dedicated following among the city's top entrepreneurs, business leaders and medical professionals. During the course of 25 years serving Montreal's high-net worth individuals and families, he has become one of Canada's leading experts in crafting customized investment portfolios that are built to last.

"The fundamental rule is that each portfolio must be constructed for the specific client," Mr. Matte explains. "You don't let the market environment decide what should be in the portfolio. You take control and carefully select investments that work for each individual situation."

What works for affluent investors in the current environment tends to be yield-producing investments, whether dividend-paying stocks or investment-grade corporate bonds. Balanced portfolios of this nature are able to deliver predictable returns and income regardless of how markets are behaving. Moreover, this strategy is more sophisticated than it would appear on the surface – Mr. Matte has a unique ability to source quality securities that go beyond what a standard broker can do. In addition, he manages these portfolios himself.

"Years ago, I discovered that third-party managers and mutual funds weren't matching the investment results that I was able to generate using my own skills and professional judgment," he says. "Clients began requesting that I dispense with that layer of fees and complexity – and I've been directing all portfolios ever since."

Matte credits the institutional strength of his firm, Macquarie Private Wealth, for providing an extensive range of investments to choose from. The global resources of Macquarie enable him to select stocks and bonds that most other firms simply don't have access to. As a result, Matte and his clients go beyond the standard off-the-shelf products to invest in securities that can provide better yields at a lower cost.

"My clients place a great deal of trust in my counsel, which is why I conduct regular portfolio updates with each of them on a monthly basis," Matte says. "This presents an opportunity to review the investment strategy and make any necessary adjustments. Ultimately, my clients value peace of mind, and that's what my professional counsel provides."

To arrange a private appointment with Denny Matte, visit his website at [dennymatte.com](http://dennymatte.com) for contact information.

Marketing feature



## PSOs catch 2 more for graffiti, city claiming damages

LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public safety officers arrested two 16-year-olds April 20 in Westmount Park in connection with fresh graffiti found in the comfort station and on park benches and garbage cans, Public Security officials report.

They were each issued tickets for \$118 for defacing public property under nuisance By-law 257. Their parents were informed what had happened and that the city would be claiming clean-up expenses. One boy lived in NDG, the other in Montreal East.

The city's security camera initially picked up three youths acting suspiciously at the comfort station at 8 pm.

When Sgt. Steve Payne arrived, he found fresh black graffiti on a washroom door and began watching the three at 8:07 pm as they sat on a park bench. Within

minutes, he saw one take a paint marker and begin writing on the top of a garbage can beside the bench.

On the arrival of PSO Paris Papadatos five minutes later, the officers placed three youths under arrest, advised them of their rights and called police, said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

When police arrived at 9:15 pm, they identified the two who were believed responsible but, in keeping with police policy regarding graffiti and first-time juvenile offenders, declined to charge them with a criminal offence, McBain said.

Following the city's zero tolerance on graffiti the two were fined, however, by Public Security under the municipal by-law. The washroom door was described as covered with graffiti and similar tags were found at a number of locations in the park.

## Wesselmann's pop art at Galerie de Bellefeuille



Jacques Bellefeuille carefully unpacks acid-free paper-lined boxes with prints by Tom Wesselmann, a leading American pop artist of the '60s. Westmounters and gallerists Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille worked with the Tom Wesselmann estate and the David Janis Gallery in New York to curate the exhibit, which runs from Saturday, May 19 to Friday, June 1 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave. The de Bellefeuille exhibit parallels the Tom Wesselmann Retrospective at the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, May 18 to October 7.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave

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# Placing Old Age Security on a Sustainable Path

Canadians are living longer and costs for the Old Age Security (OAS) are rising. On April 1, 2023 the Government of Canada plans to start raising the age of eligibility for OAS and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from 65 to 67.\*

## What does this mean for you?

**54 or older as of March 31, 2012**

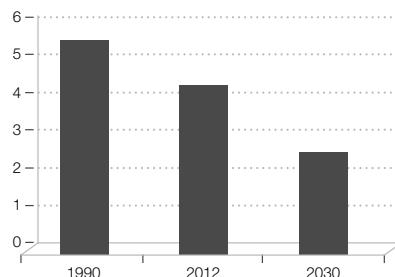
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**53 or younger as of March 31, 2012**

The age of eligibility for OAS/GIS **will change gradually** between 2023 and 2029

Starting in July 2013, Canadians who are eligible for, but not yet receiving OAS will have the **flexibility to delay** receiving it in exchange for a higher monthly amount at a later date.

The number of working-age Canadians for every senior is decreasing\*\*



\*\*Source: 9th Actuarial Report on the Old Age Security Program

*The number of working-age Canadians per senior is decreasing, placing additional pressure on the OAS program.*

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\*Subject to parliamentary approval

# Former diplomat, longtime friend of animals, Paul Creighton dies April 15

By JOANNE PENHALE

Listening to Roger Miller through earbuds, his daughter and her friends surrounding him, Paul Creighton died on April 15. Widely known in Westmount for his presence at city council meetings and for his fervent advocacy for Westmount's dog runs – Creighton was often at the Lansdowne dog run or winding through the streets with his dog Chaucer, stopping along the way to exchange stories with neighbours.

"He was a man of very high morals," said Amy Creighton, explaining her father's disappointment with his years in the Canadian foreign service. Soon after earning his BA from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier) and his marriage to Beverley Petty, he became vice consul in the Dominican Republic. In the mid 1960s, Creighton then worked briefly in New York with the UN before accepting a post in Tanzania. "Truth, integrity, justice ... those were big things for Dad," Amy said. He was actually repulsed, she said, by the inner politicking and social elitism amongst diplomats.



Paul Creighton, with his dog Chaucer, was among other Westmount's dog owners, who staged a demonstration at the Lansdowne dog run on November 27, 2009. Photo: David Price

"People let him down, and the animals never did," she continued.

He was closest to Chaucer, the fourth in a succession of Great Pyrenees. Chaucer accompanied Creighton to Westmount city council meetings to advocate – sometimes battle – for the Lansdowne dog run. And several cats ruled his home on Argyle Ave. He moved there with his wife Beverley and kids Christopher and Amy in 1973, after finishing an MBA at Western University. He worked as an economist,

and in 1976 became an independent consultant – an international headhunter – which he was doing until last year.

Creighton was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1937 to a Norwegian family. Amy said her dad spoke of an idyllic childhood in Ottawa, where his father was army major. He was a Boy Scout with his older brother Jon. They watched 5-cent movies which the stars would actually attend – like Gene Autrey, with his horse Champion. And they took summer vacations in Saskatchewan, where they played with real guns.

Creighton was accepted at the Royal Conservatory of Music for piano, and he studied art with painter Henri Masson. His 5-year-old-granddaughter, Lexington, remarked that nobody drew as well as her grandpa, according to her mother Amy.

He ran, unsuccessfully, for council in the 1991 election.

At the Lansdowne dog run, a dog owner pointed to the bench where Creighton used to sit, watch the dogs and socialize with others. "He could really take the mickey out of someone," she said. "In a humorous way."

Creighton leaves behind son Christopher, who lives in Japan with his wife and 13-year-old son, and daughter Amy, who teaches at Concordia University and who also teaches fitness classes at Victoria Hall, and her daughter Lexington. Creighton is also survived by his older brother Jon, who lives with his wife in Toronto. Beverley Creighton died in 2006.

## Paul Creighton's furry companions looking for homes

Chaucer, a Great Pyrenees, and seven cats now find themselves looking for homes after the death of their owner, Paul Creighton. Two sets of cats are siblings, and all but one were rescues. The non-rescue, according to his daughter Amy Creighton, was a cat she brought home with her in 1997 upon leaving Budapest and moving to London. Figuring he

wouldn't survive the quarantine, she "brought Tristan to stay with grandpa. And of course, he never left."

See photos of some of the cats to the right. Chaucer is pictured above.

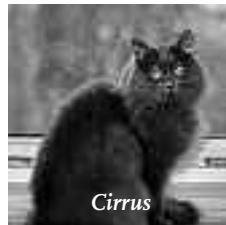
For more information, contact Amy Creighton at amy-creighton@bell.net or 514.467.2754.



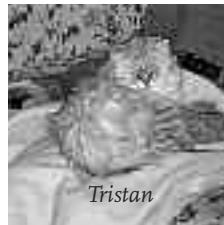
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# Resident seeks public debate on new hydro meters

## 2,500 radiofrequency models already installed by Westmount, opt-out might be considered

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount resident, concerned about the long-term cumulative effect of radiofrequency emissions on health, is calling for the city to hold a public meeting and debate on the electromagnetic hydro meters it has quietly been phasing in since 2008.

These digital models can be read remotely from the street, eliminating the need for meter readers to gain access to a dwelling or property as required for the traditional electromechanical model. They are identifiable by their dials that look like hands on a clock.

Megan Durnford – a film maker and the mother of young children who has



The digital radiofrequency hydro meter

been delving into the world-wide health controversy over radiofrequency (RF) emissions – discovered to her surprise a year ago that one of these new meters was being installed on the wall of her house on Victoria Ave.

And since then she has been carrying on an email exchange with city officials and council members asking, without success, that her meter be removed and replaced with one that does not emit RF waves.

“The key thing for me is that Westmount is installing radiofrequency meters without any public debate of the issue, which is already known to be controversial,” she says. “These meters shouldn’t be forced on people.”

By comparison, she explains, cell phones and other wireless devices are used by choice.

The meter’s radiofrequency emissions are well below the maximum permissible

exposure safety regulations adopted by Health Canada, explained Hydro Westmount officials.

But according to Stéphane Belainsky of 3E Electromagnetic Environmental Expertise Inc., a specialist who works with people having related health sensitivities, the problem with these standards used by industry is that they are based on the heating effects of radiofrequency on human tissue rather than on the effects caused by lesser amounts of RF.

The lesser amounts “don’t heat you up but have been determined by researchers to have an effect on heart arrhythmia, glandular problems, cancers and other conditions.

“There’s proof enough,” he said, “that the World Health Organization recently reclassified RF emissions as potential 2B cancer-causing agents among which are DDT and lead.”

### Hydro Westmount program

Hydro Westmount has already installed 2,500 of these second-generation RF meters at homes and businesses out of the 11,000 meters in service, said the utility’s director, Pierre Dubé.

The RF meter is the only one Hydro Westmount is now purchasing because of its remote reading function, he confirmed.

While the meters are read only once every two months, however, they are actively emitting radiofrequency waves in bursts of fractions of a second throughout the day at approximately 30 second intervals.

They are not as advanced technologically as the “next” generation of so-called smart meter.

He described the smart meter as an RF model that contains a clock. This enables electricity to be charged according to time of use. It can communicate as far as 3 kilometers away from router to router, whereas the Westmount meter has a distance of about 1,000 feet.

### Test results

Soon after the installation of Durnford’s new meter, she hired Belainsky to test it.

The findings from directly in front of it revealed that the meter was emitting bursts peaking at 7,310 microwatts per square meter ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ ), pulsed approximately every 30 seconds, she says.

While the RF waves decreased with dis-

tance, the meter is located near a window and only a few feet from the family’s dining area on the deck in the long narrow lot of a townhouse. The emissions were found to be penetrating inside.

Belainsky told the *Independent* that it is “very tricky” to make apples-to-apples comparisons between various pieces of RF equipment or safety standards since there are so many variables and complexities involved.

For example, a plugged-in cordless phone on its base, he said, typically emits around 7,000  $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$  at a distance of 2.5 meters. But this is a constant emission, whereas the hydro meter is in millisecond



The radiofrequency hydro meter is installed directly over the deck at Megan Durnford’s house on Victoria Ave.

bursts.

After Durnford’s meter was tested, she advised Hydro Westmount that it had been covered in aluminum foil and that this had “drastically” reduced exterior readings to 340  $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$  and completely eliminated them inside the house.

It is actually “illegal” to tamper with the utility’s meter, Dubé said, and that wrapping it prevents the remote reading capability.

While Durnford offered in writing to unsheath the meter at the time of reading, she says she has never been asked to do so and doesn’t know how or when it is being read.

### Meters replaced after 10 years

In explaining the Hydro Westmount program, Dubé said that in accordance with Measurement Canada’s criteria, “we have to replace meters after 10 years.” They are also replaced when someone upgrades an electrical system.

The only meters now available are the second generation digital type, he said. “Just like the rotary phone, mechanical meters are no longer made.”

He did acknowledge, however, that such second-generation meters are available without the radiofrequency component. This means they display digitally the cumulative consumption of electricity but

cannot be read remotely.

“Technically,” he said, Hydro Westmount could acquire a few of these in limited number for anyone “insisting” on a non-RF meter who agreed to undertake a reading their own meter, though this would defeat the purpose of the remote-reading program.

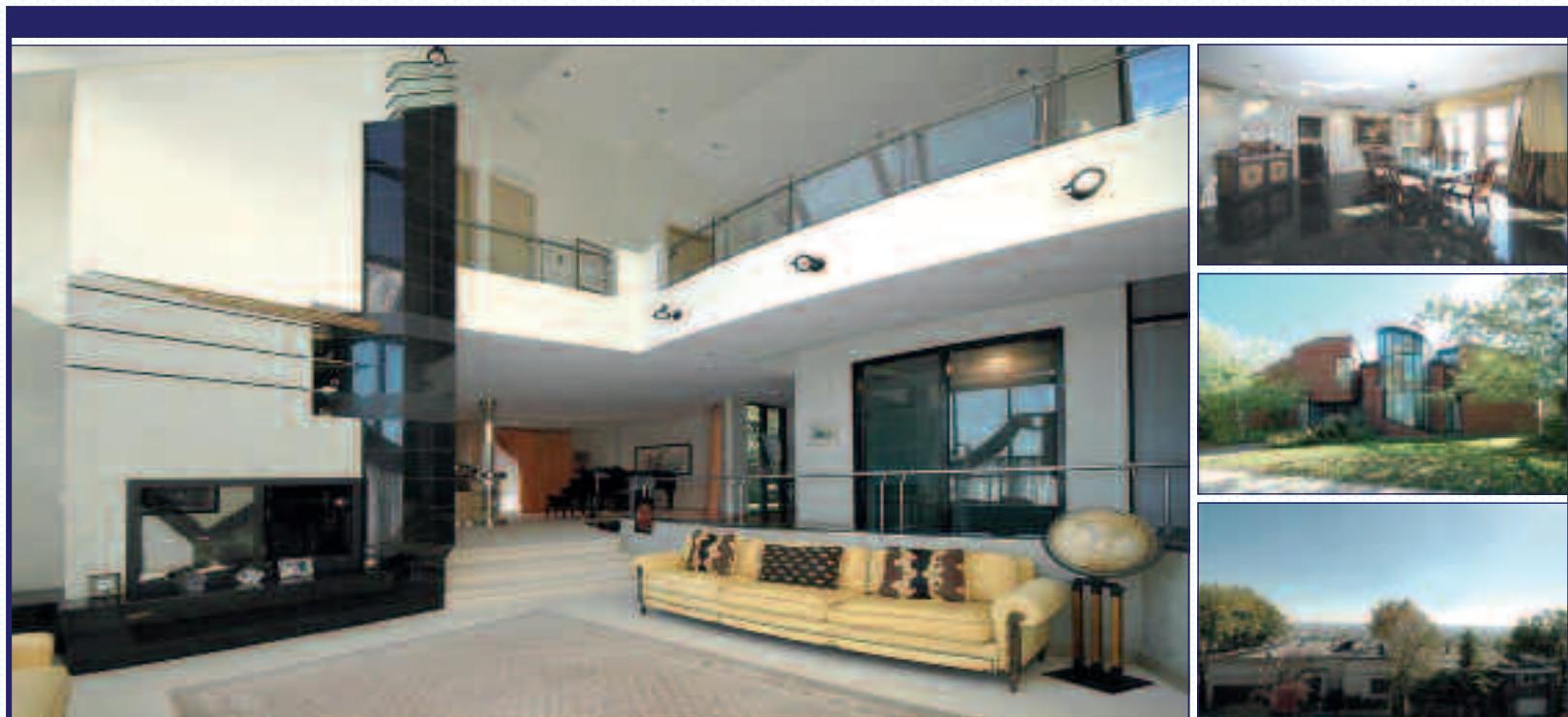
“Maybe we could open that door on a very, very minimal scale,” he suggested.

### Right to opt out

The right to opt out of smart meter programs has already been won, sometimes through courts, by residents in some jurisdictions. These include BC, Maine and Connecticut. This option ..... is also being proposed, *continued on p. 14*



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# ‘Update safety standards’

continued from p. 12

but with an added fee, by Hydro Quebec in its ongoing hearings before the Régie de l'énergie, the provincial electricity board.

Users have no choice in Ontario, however, where smart meters are mandatory as part of a provincial “green” program to charge for electricity by time of use.

“But why take the chance on jeopardizing health when it’s not necessary?” asks Durnford.



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She doesn’t own either a microwave oven or a cell phone. It’s her choice, she says, the same one she wants to have over her hydro meter.

And, as research continues to bring out more and more information on the impact of RF emissions on health from even low levels, she says, it is incumbent on regulatory agencies to upgrade their safety standards.

The problem, said Belainsky, is that there are few long-term data regarding the impact on health from radiofrequency, or its contribution to the overall “cocktail of exposures from heavy metals and all the products around us. We don’t know what the collective effect is in a community from all the radiofrequency emissions from all sources.

But, he added, “we have at least a duty to inform people so they can take a sound decision.”

## Tagging washrooms

Graffiti was found all over the washrooms of Prince Albert Park’s comfort station April 21 at 9:34 pm. It was not known who was responsible, Public Security officials said.

# Managing radiofrequency equipment: an issue for Healthy City Project?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the proliferation of wireless equipment, including the installation of rooftop transmitting antennae on several Westmount apartment buildings, perhaps the time has come to look at ways to manage the issue, says Tom Thompson, who chairs the city’s Community Life committee of the Healthy City Project (HCP).

The HCP was launched 20 years ago in Westmount under World Health Organization initiatives.

Thompson sat on city council and headed the HCP steering committee in 2008 when the city made its decision to purchase the new radiofrequency hydro meters, one he remembers clearly.

While the new meters were not discussed at the time by the HCP, he said, “good questions are now being raised and it’s an issue we should be looking at,” perhaps in terms of developing management guidelines, he suggests (see separate story,

p. 12).

Thompson, through the HCP, was instrumental in city council adopting restrictive guidelines for the use of pesticides. This is one of reasons he has been selected as this year’s Volunteer of the Year by the Westmount Municipal Association.

“I’m sensitive to these issues,” he explained, “because we don’t know what the impact of any of these radiofrequency installations will have. Some people – the very young and some others – are more vulnerable or sensitive to them.”

### Martin: Science says ‘no problem’

On the other hand, Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Utilities and Public Works, said that “all the science tells us there is absolutely no problem.”

Concerning the hydro meters, he said, a change in placement on a wall might be required in some cases to reduce the impact of emissions.

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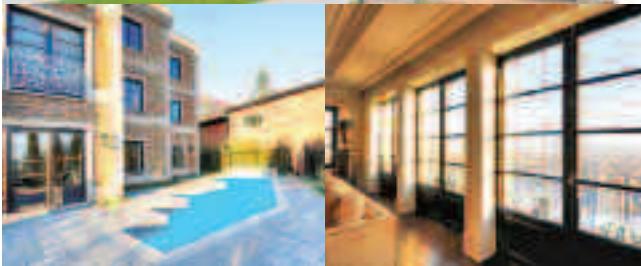


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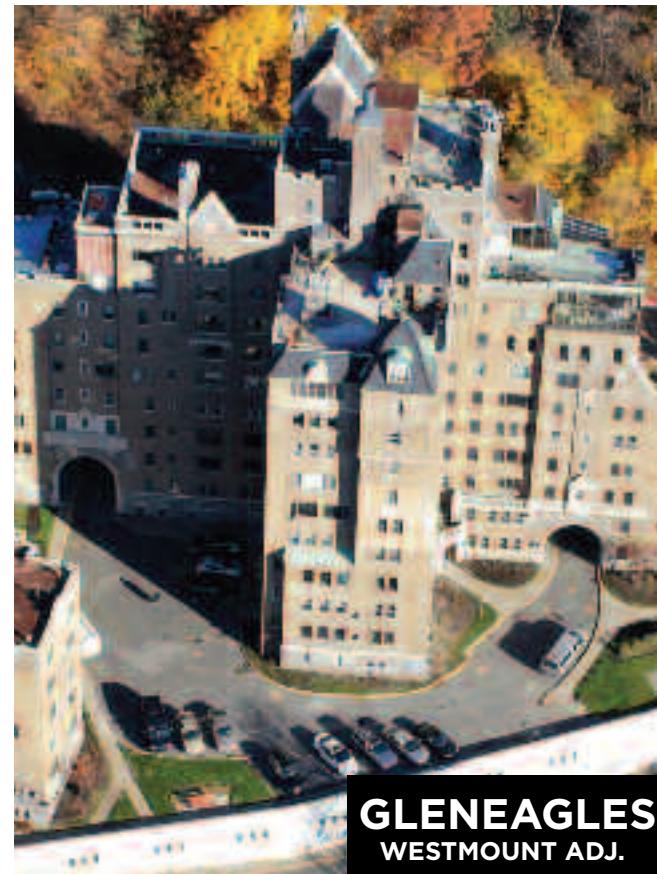


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# Highest price ever paid in Westmount – \$7M



*Real estate*

ANDY DODGE

*The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2012, provided by city officials. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.*

The highest price ever paid for a single-family dwelling in Westmount was achieved in March this year, as the lovely stone mansion at 3617 The Boulevard sold to the Chinese consulate general for \$7 million.

The figure easily beats out the \$6,501,000 paid for 80 Sunnyside Ave. in May 2001, a sale which included three de-

velopment lots at the corner of Edgehill Rd. and Lexington Ave. Those lots are now being developed.

Meanwhile the next highest price in Westmount's history, \$6,410,000, was reported to have been agreed to for 205 Edgehill Rd., right across the street from the lots under development.

The \$7-million price tag is an indication that resistance barriers are being broken in style; in February, four of the six sales in the month were for prices between \$2 and \$4 million, and the average price for the month was \$2,286,667.

For March, the average moves down to \$1,888,200 even including the \$7-million sale, but it is still the second-highest (after February) raw average monthly price in Westmount's history.

In fact, the average price was pulled down by four sales under \$1 million, with the lowest being 354 Grosvenor Ave. at

\$600,000. The biggest markdown involved the estate of Mildred Bronfman Lande for a house that even the deed reported "is more than 80 years old and requires substantial work," the mansion at 4333 Westmount Ave. (corner Argyle), which sold for \$2,300,000 despite having a valuation of \$2,808,000.

Highest mark-up was recorded for 373 Olivier Ave., a stonefront townhouse that sold for \$1,248,000.

Two duplexes are included in the residential category, both selling in the \$800,000 to \$900,000 range.

In the condominium market, March introduced a new building, which is now being "sold up" to many buyers who purchased the property in the past two years off building plans. The three-storey structure at 11 Hillside Ave., formerly the site of the Caledonia Curling Club, is now almost ready for occupancy. Nine apart-

ments sold in March for prices ranging from just over \$260,000 to just under \$435,000. The deeds also indemnify the buyers for sales taxes but those are not included in the base price, which establishes the municipal transfer tax to be paid. Montreal has yet to evaluate the building for tax purposes, so there is no comparison criterion.

Other condo sales include two on the seventh floor of Westmount Park Towers (the "Pom"), 4700 St. Catherine St., another at 295 Victoria Ave., corner de Maisonneuve Blvd. and one flat in a made-over duplex at 482 Victoria Ave.

The only other sale in the month involved a share-sale of a commercial building at 328 Victoria transferred to a corporation whose owner actually owns the other half of the building.



3617 The Boulevard



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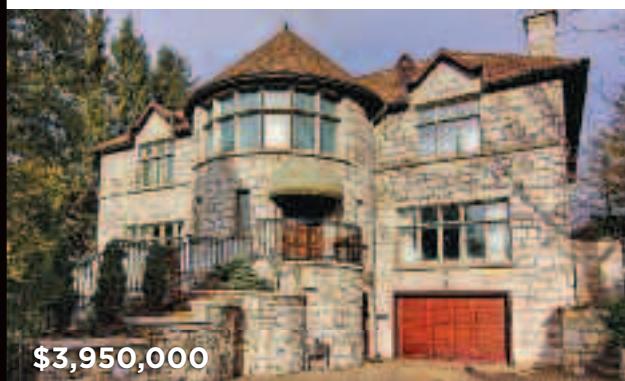
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## Migration started



Bird migration season is reported in force, as this ruby crowned kinglet alights on a rock in an Arlington garden April 26.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

## Thompson awarded

*continued from p. 1*

spanning more than 50 years. Having retired officially as its director of development and fundraising, he continues to work for the university as a consultant.

Thompson, who chairs the Community Life committee of the Healthy City Project as well as the MAB/Mackay Foundation's development committee, is also a member of the board of the Visual Arts Centre and a former member of the Marianopolis development committee.

He is a former president of the WMA and chaired the Healthy City Project for most of its 20 years, bringing guidelines for pesticide use as well as composting and other environmental programs into reality.

When asked how he felt about being named volunteer of the year, he said "I like to see other people get these things."

He will receive the Derek Walker volunteer award at the WMA's annual general meeting at Victoria Hall Wednesday, May 9.

The value of volunteers, Thompson said, "is to develop a quality of life in a community by getting people involved and



Tom Thompson

effecting change."

His own service to the WMA includes guiding its presentations to the BAPE environmental hearings in opposition to the Foster Wheeler incinerator project and initiating a survey of city services.

Thompson has also served as vice president of the Fraser Hickson Library, chair of Red Cross Water Safety in Quebec, a member of the PSBGM parents' committee and a Y volunteer.

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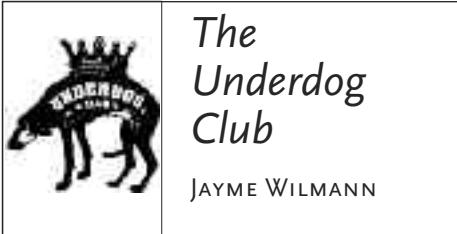
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JAYME WILMANN

It is Kahlil Gibran who said “Ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.” Petite Puce knows this firsthand, having had the good fortune of spending much of her life with an owner who adored her, but then suffering the loss of a loving owner when the person passed away last year.

Petite Puce is an adorable 11-year-old Lhasa Apso mix who is looking for a family or individual with whom she can spend the rest of her golden years.

Members of her late owner’s family tried to take her in, but they didn’t have the time, and the mourning pooch became increasingly despondent. By the time she was turned over to Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue, she had all but stopped eating and had become severely underweight.

A visit to the vet showed that some of

Petite Puce’s misery and lack of appetite were caused by decayed teeth and a gum infection. She has since received treatment.

All in all, things are looking up for Petite Puce, who is a much happier dog now that she has found herself in a caring and devoted foster home, and is beginning to gain weight and enjoy life again. She adores her co-canine, a pug, and does well with cats and other small, calm dogs.

Big dogs and little children can make

Petite Puce nervous, however, so a relaxed environment with children over the age of 12 would be the ideal retirement setting for this senior dog.

But don’t be fooled by Petite Puce’s age! This sprightly gal is extremely active for her age and absolutely loves to go for her daily walks. She also loves to cuddle up on the couch and can be very attentive and affectionate.

If you are interested in adopting Petite Puce, please contact Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue at 514.845.0001.

Visit us at [www.underdogclub.org](http://www.underdogclub.org).



Petite Puce

## Mindy & Toyo adopted!

Featured in the February 21 column “Breaking up is hard to do,” this odd pair composed of a 4-year-old grey and white shih tzu poodle mix, Mindy, and pal Toyo, a shih tzu Pekinese cross, 6 years old, were adopted – and to the joy of the SPCA emergency shelter – together. – KM

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City of Westmount



## AVIS D'ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR RÈGLEMENTS Nos 1421, 1422, ET 1423

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés, que les règlements mentionnés ci-dessous, adoptés par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue le 16 janvier 2012, sont réputés avoir été approuvés par les personnes habiles à voter à la suite de la procédure d'enregistrement tenue le 22 février 2012. Le ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire a par ailleurs approuvé ces règlements le 18 avril 2012 :

**Règlement n° 1421** intitulé « RÈGLEMENT ABROGEANT LE RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 120 000 \$ POUR LA MISE À JOUR DES SYSTÈMES INFORMATIQUES, DE L'ACQUISITION DE MATÉRIEL INFORMATIQUE, DE LOGICIELS ET D'UN SYSTÈME DE BASE DE DONNÉES RELATIONNELLES », dont l'objet vise à abroger le règlement n° RCA05 23025 dans le but d'annuler le solde résiduaire de ce règlement d'emprunt;

**Règlement n° 1422** intitulé « RÈGLEMENT ABROGEANT LE RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 70 000 \$ POUR L'ACQUISITION D'ÉQUIPEMENT SERVANT À LA GESTION EN TEMPS RÉEL DU RÉSEAU ÉLECTRIQUE D'HYDRO WESTMOUNT », dont l'objet vise à abroger le règlement n° RCA05 23029 dans le but d'annuler le solde résiduaire de ce règlement d'emprunt;

**Règlement n° 1423** intitulé « RÈGLEMENT ABROGEANT LE RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 50 000 \$ POUR L'ACQUISITION D'UN VÉHICULE ÉLECTRIQUE POUR HYDRO WESTMOUNT », dont l'objet vise à abroger le règlement n° RCA05 23031 dans le but d'annuler le solde résiduaire de ce règlement d'emprunt.

Ces règlements entrent en vigueur en date de ce jour.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter ce règlement sur le site web de la ville : [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2012.

## NOTICE OF COMING INTO FORCE BY-LAWS 1421, 1422 and 1423

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that the by-laws mentioned below, adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at a regular sitting held on January 16, 2012, were deemed to have been approved by the qualified voters at the registration held on February 22, 2012. On the other hand, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy approved these by-laws on April 18, 2012:

**By-law 1421** entitled “BY-LAW TO REPEAL THE BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000 FOR THE UPDATE OF THE COMPUTING SYSTEMS, THE ACQUISITION OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AND A RELATIONAL DATA BASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM” the object of which is to repeal By-law RCA05 23025 in order to cancel the residual balance on this loan by-law;

**By-law 1422** entitled “BY-LAW TO REPEAL THE BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMPUTERIZED REAL TIME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OF HYDRO WESTMOUNT ELECTRIC NETWORK” the object of which is to repeal By-law RCA05 23029 in order to cancel the residual balance on this loan by-law;

**By-law 1423** entitled “BY-LAW TO REPEAL THE BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR HYDRO WESTMOUNT” the object of which is to repeal By-law RCA05 23031 in order to cancel the residual balance on this loan by-law.

These by-laws shall come into force today.

Any interested person may consult the by-law on the City’s website: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) and obtain a copy thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, on May 1, 2012.

Mario Gerbeau, Greffier de la Ville/City Clerk

## Atom A, Pee wee A & B and Midget A

# Resiliency helps Westmount hockey to four-peat

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Perhaps taking heart from an expression about not giving up until a voluptuous lady bursts into song, a quartet of Westmount boys' hockey teams rallied with their playoffs on the line to capture their respective league titles.

In near mirror images of each other, Westmount's squads in the Atom A, Pee wee A and B, and Midget A divisions all lost the opening game of their best-of-three final series before edging their opponents in the final two meetings to win the title.

Exemplifying the cliché about defence winning championships, the Atom A Wings, anchored by strong team defence, neutralized their opponents' offences on their way to the title, allowing just five goals in seven playoff games.

Steamrolling their way into the semi-finals then slipping past the second-ranked Mont-Royal/Outremont (MRO) Devils in overtime, the Wings fell 2-1 to the Lachine Rapides in the opening game of the finals before winning 2-0 and 4-1 to best their top-seeded opponent.

With two teams competing in the Pee wee A semi-finals, hopes of an all-Westmount final were dashed when the Wings were knocked out by the LaSalle Jaguars. Avenging their fallen compatriots, the top-seeded Predators split the first two games of the final before capturing the title in style, winning 3-2 in overtime.

Building off of their performance, the Predators captured the Lac St. Louis Re-

gional Championship days later, one of five championship banners won by the team. See photo.

The Pee wee B Wings completed Westmount's sweep of the age level, despite an opening round wake-up call. Finishing first with an 18-1-3 record in the regular season, the Wings dropped their first-

Pos.	Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	FJ	Pts.
<b>NOVICE A</b>									
9	<b>Wings</b>	18	3	14	1	39	96	18	25
	(Lost in second round)								
<b>Atom A</b>									
3	<b>Wings</b>	18	12	2	4	76	56	18	46
	(Won Atom A title)								
<b>Atom B</b>									
7	<b>Predators</b>	18	7	9	2	58	64	18	34
	(Lost in semi-final)								
<b>Pee wee A</b>									
1	<b>Predators</b>	22	19	2	1	88	16	22	64
	(Won Pee wee A title)								
4	<b>Wings</b>	22	14	6	2	74	36	22	52
	(Lost in semi-final)								
<b>Pee wee B</b>									
1	<b>Wings</b>	22	18	1	3	99	28	22	61
	(Won Pee wee B title)								
<b>Bantam A</b>									
1	<b>Wings</b>	22	21	1	0	93	17	22	64
	(Lost in second round)								
<b>Midget A</b>									
3	<b>Wings</b>	22	13	4	5	61	36	19	50
	(Won Midget A title)								
<b>Midget B</b>									
2	<b>Predators</b>	22	17	5	0	99	45	22	56
	(Lost in third round)								



Westmount Pee wee A Predators pose with family and fans after capturing their fifth banner of the season – the Lac St. Louis Regional Championship.

Photo: Bobby Garfield

round game to the LaSalle Panthers only to be saved by virtue of their first-seed status.

After winning their next three games, including exacting revenge against the Panthers, the Wings faced off against the St. Laurent Sonic, dropping the first game 4-2 before stifling their opponents in the final two match-ups, winning 2-0 and 5-1.

Completing Westmount's title-winning quartet by relying on their defensive prowess, the Midget A Wings breezed into

the semi-finals with three shutouts in as many games before knocking off the MRO Devils 3-2 to reach the finals.

In a repeat of the Atom A final, Westmount responded to a game 1 loss with a shutout in game 2 and a convincing a game 3 victory to win the title.

With its post-season success, Westmount hockey has gained some bragging rights heading into next season, with the title foursome tying LaSalle for the most championships won this season.

## Quebec classifieds

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lishing industry experience an asset. Competitive compensation, benefits, flexible hours and profit-sharing. This position is based in our Ottawa office. Our websites are at [www.ayaya.ca](http://www.ayaya.ca) and [www.nunatsiaqonline.ca](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca). Send resume to Alicia Barrett, [aliciab@nortext.com](mailto:aliciab@nortext.com).

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## A second Galerie d'art V-Trimont opens on Greene Ave.

By HEATHER BLACK

Galerie V-Trimont was set to open a second art gallery May 1 next to the Old Post Office at 1308 Greene Ave.

Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Alain Trimont and Dominique Vartanian, the gallery features contemporary work by international and local artists, including Vartanian herself. Painting both abstract and figurative compositions – often under the name Varte – Vartanian recently exhibited at Holt Renfrew.

The new gallery also exhibits the theatrical paintings of Montreal's Dominic Besner. It is also introducing renowned European painter Frans Schuurisma to Westmount gallery-goers. Although popular in Europe, Schuurisma's colourful and whimsical work is less known to North American audiences.

According to Trimont, the new storefront "microgallery" is one way to attract attention to the gallery's artists.

In the past, Galerie V-Trimont has featured such artists as Mario Merola and Rita Briansky. A series of group exhibitions are planned.

Beginning in mid-May, the Greene Ave. gallery will feature artists painting on site,



*Dominique Vartanian of Galerie d'art V-Trimont.*

starting with Manuel Bujold, who will be in attendance from 10 am until 4 pm on Saturday, May 12.

The gallery at 4259 St. Catherine St. will remain open.

## Westmount's SWAT victors of oldest old timers hockey tournament

For the second time in three years, the Westmount SWAT hockey team won the Cudmore 50+ division of the Pointe Claire Oldtimers Hockey Tournament on April 22. The team went undefeated, and ended in a 4-3 against the Ajax, Ontario team in the finals.

SWAT team members include Jeff Kastner, Greg Haney, Peter Jacobsen, Mike Auerbach, Larry Dionne, Adam Cutler,

Bert Lumbertus, Leo Cauzo, Patrick Baldwin, Alan Elbaz and Dominic Agostino.

The 43rd Pointe Claire Oldtimers Hockey Tournament is the oldest annual old timers' hockey tournament in the world, according to Cutler, with some 88 teams competing in various age groups. Each year the spring tournament raises more than \$100,000 for Montreal charities.



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## Tolerance over for off-leash dogs

Enough warnings have been issued for first-time offenders, according to Public Security. Now, any dog found off leash in Summit Woods during the on-leash period and other parks as well as all public places will bring the owner or keeper a \$75 ticket.

The practice of allowing dogs to run off leash outside dog runs – already illegal – is reported to be especially prevalent in parks and on playing fields. It was condemned by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Urban Planning and Parks commissioner at the city council meeting April 2 and has become the subject of a Public Security “leash your dog” campaign.

The crackdown started April 19 with tickets were given out to two NDG residents at 9:48 am on the Summit.

## Some pay tribute to old arena before demolition

With demolition of the arena two days off, Westmounters got their last chance on April 28 to post last-minute notes, photos and homages on the outer brick walls and doors at the northern end of the old arena building. A small group of residents took the initiative to invite others to participate in the spontaneous tribute. City officials had given them permission. See photo to the right and on p. 1.

– M.C.B

## Tea party for autistic children

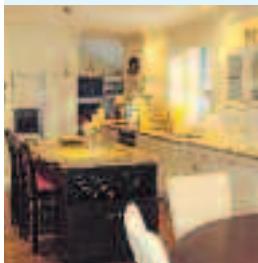


A tea party to benefit autistic children will be held on Sunday, May 6 from 3 to 6 pm at Le Loft Hotel, 314 Sherbrooke St. E. Organizers, from left: Westmount Independent columnist Aurélien Guillory, Nancy Bloomfield, Valeria Rosenbloom and Geeta Suchak.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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Among those who left notes on the old arena wall were Chantal Cheema and her son Ryan, who has fond memories of learning to skate there.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Lynda Schneider Granatstein “Fragrant Memories” May 5-15



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# Inform Redfern residents: Lulham

*continued from p. 5*

small children.

Lulham urged residents who see city regulations being broken to call Public Security, which they have indeed been doing, pointed out the department's director Dave Sedgwick.

For residents who park on the street, Sedgwick said, the city would be providing 13 special reserved parking spots for them further up the street, as well as on Hillside and on de Maisonneuve to replace those being eliminated to make way for the new two-way truck traffic on the lower part of the block.

## Driveway sharing

One significant problem involved the shared use of a driveway off Redfern by the trucks as well as tenants of 4333 St. Catherine, the commercial building to the east. "There are 300 to 350 people a day from our building going in and out," explained Rosaria Abreu, the manager.

After much discussion, it was decided that a lot of the problem could be solved by the cars using another access to St. Catherine.

Residents requested a schedule for the contractor's time of work to plan ahead. "I'm not taking my vacation when you're working," said Timothy Slonosky.

And Kaleem Siddiqui expressed a need for some peace and quiet from the work, stating that he and wife were both academics spending some of their days at home.

"It's a big project," explained city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. The city

has rules but "any major project involves some exceptions." There would be many workers on the site, but now that permits have been issued, "they are allowed to do their work."

She also told residents that they were going through a difficult period right now with demolition of the façade and some parts of the building under way. This would continue through mid-May. The next step would be the pouring of concrete for floor slabs, not on a daily basis but maybe once a week for about eight times, the contractor said.

The project is expected to be completed on time in June 2013, according to lawyer Jason Berger, Joseph's son.

Lulham got it right, he told the *Independent*, when telling residents that unlike work at the large adjacent apartment building, 4300 de Maisonneuve, which has gone on and on for years, construction of the condos was not likely to drag on because the units had to be ready for sale as quickly as possible.

The project is now 75 percent sold, said developer Joseph Berger.

In addition to four trees removed from the site March 29, four city-owned red maples were discovered removed April 19, according to city officials.

A forestry engineer is being hired to assess the value they represented for replacement costs.

As well, under zoning by-law 1303, a company (legal person) is liable for fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the first offence, and \$2,000 to \$4,000 for second and subsequent offences.

## Cops catch break-in suspect on Dorchester

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

An alert homeowner was able to help Station 12 officers catch a suspect who tried to break into his home on Dorchester.

Police say the suspect broke through a backdoor screen and unlocked the door of the home at 1:30 am on April 20. But the suspect then was faced with a second door.

"While this was happening, the 40-year-old resident heard some noises coming from the rear of his home," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "When he went to the backdoor, he looked out and saw the suspect trying to break in."

The man screamed, scaring away the suspect. He then called 911.

"When our officers arrived, they had a description of the suspect, and they saw a man who matched it on Dorchester," said

Pimentel. "As they were getting ready to approach him, the victim opened his front door and began screaming, 'That's the guy.'"

Arrested was a 20-year-old man from east end Montreal. He has been charged with breaking and entering.

"The man had vomit on his sweater when he was arrested and it appeared he was under the influence of alcohol," said Pimentel.

## Bus spills fuel

Public safety officers found a disabled STM bus leaking a substantial amount of fuel on Sherbrooke St. near Roslyn April 19 at 6:50 pm. The bus was towed away and officers waited on scene until a specialized STM unit arrived to clean up the spill.

## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the April 2 meeting of city council.

**51 Surrey Gardens:** two permits, to build a new house, and remove some trees to do so;

**16 Devon:** to install a new swimming pool, fence, retaining wall and plantings all in rear yard;

**79 Holton:** to build a new interior garage facing the street;

**4335 Westmount:** to build a dormer with two windows on the roof;

**4800 de Maisonneuve:** to erect a real estate sign in the front yard for the leasing of apartment units;

**810 Upper Belmont:** at a Category I building, to build a stone balcony at the rear, replace all windows and modify some openings;

**626 Victoria:** to block some windows to create two new openings and add a new rear window;

**342A Victoria:** to make some repairs to the front façade and add some moldings;

**427 Elm:** to add a new window at the basement entrance and replace the door;

**640 Lansdowne:** to modify some openings at the rear façade and replace them by new doors;

**316 Grosvenor:** to enlarge an existing window opening at the basement level to create a new door and replace some basement windows;

**54 Aberdeen:** to rebuild the front stairs and landing as well as repave the driveway and path, and add planters to the front yard;

**700 Grosvenor:** to rebuild the rear deck;

**368 Grosvenor:** to do some landscaping in the rear yard including a new wood fence and terrace.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the April 16 meeting of city council.

**215 Redfern:** to cut down some trees to build a circular driveway and underground parking lot on condition that four mature replacement trees are planted;

**4918B Sherbrooke:** to erect a sign for Ongles Jenny Spa;

**788 Upper Belmont:** to replace the windows;

**646 Roslyn:** to modify openings in the rear façade;

**377 Metcalfe:** at a Category I house, to build an addition with a rooftop bal-

cony, a sunroom and a deck in the back yard;

**598 Argyle:** at a Category I house, to do some landscaping in the rear yard, including a terrace, stone steps, a fence and a gate;

**157 Edgehill:** at a Category I house, to install a swimming pool, a pool pavilion, terrace and fence;

**5 Hudson:** landscaping in the front and side yards to include new front stone steps, ground cover and planters;

**629 Clarke:** to replace some windows and doors and modify some window and door openings;

**322 Victoria:** at a Category I house, to replace the front door;

**454 Argyle:** to replace the front upper windows;

**556 Victoria:** to repair the balcony and the front steps;

**527 Victoria:** to replace a rear door and enlarge a window opening;

**45-47 Bruce:** to rebuild masonry walls of the house;

**4410 Côte des Neiges:** to replace the front door;

**369 Elm:** at a Category I house, to replace some windows and doors;

**66 Somerville:** to replace the front door and a window;

**420 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I house, to add new openings at the front and side.

## Bookstore broken into

A suspect who used a brick to break into the CLC Bookstore at 4257 St. Catherine got away with very little.

Police say they got a call from a witness at 11:45 am on April 20 telling them that the bookstore's front door was broken.

"When the officers arrived, they saw the glass door was shattered, and they found a brick inside," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The only thing stolen from the store was a small amount of change left in the registers."

Pimentel said the storeowners did the right thing by leaving the registers open overnight, so passers-by could see they were virtually empty.

"They did leave some change, but we advise storeowners to leave the drawers open and completely empty," said Pimentel.

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## Undefeated Westmount High girls' Midget basketball team wins championship against all odds



Westmount High had a big gold medal win in Midget Girl's division 3 basketball on April 24. The win ended the team's undefeated season by clinching the league championship with a 19-17 victory over The Study. The season was marked with the challenge of competing with only eight players healthy enough for the finals and seven for the final championship game.

Photo courtesy of Westmount High School

## Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

Mayor Peter Trent will speak to the Rotary Club of Westmount on "The Westmount Recreation Centre: the Story So Far," 1 pm at Victoria Hall. 12 noon preamble, 12:30 pm lunch. Cost: \$20 lunch and presentation. RSVP: 514.935.3344 by the Friday before.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

• Westmounter Paul Grenier, architect and member of Westmount's Planning Advisory Committee, will speak on "green architecture" and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

• The Westmount Y's centennial gala, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm: cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, auction, and historical tour and exhibit at the Y Centre (4585 Sherbrooke St.). At 8 pm: dinner and dancing at Victoria Hall. Tickets: \$125, available at Y Centre reception. Info: Vanessa Valente 514.931.6770, ext. 230.

• Wagner & Friends "Art at Home" show, 5 to 8 pm; Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2 to 6 pm; Monday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 8, 5 to 8 pm – or by appointment. 434 Claremont Ave. Info: 514.484.1974.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

• Household hazardous waste collection, 9 am to 5 pm in the parking lot of the Westmount Public Library.

• Centre Greene's annual garage sale, 10 am to 3 pm. Donations accepted for articles for the sale; tables available for rent. \$25 per table. 1090 Greene Ave. Info: 514.931.6202.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

• Sunday concert in the Gallery at Victoria Hall: Dolce Musica, 2:30 pm. Classical music and more. Tickets: \$12 and \$10. Re-

freshments. Info: 514.8.5226.

• Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont Royal's benefit concert "Musica sacra," 3 pm at St. Léon Church (4311 de Maisonneuve). Tickets: \$50 for reserved seating; or at the door by 2 pm or on Admissions.com: \$20; \$10 for youth under 17.

• "Circle of Dreams, Thousand Years of Jewish Music," with Westmounter Natalie Michaud, 3 pm at the The Montreal Museum of Fine Art's Bourgie Concert Hall.

MONDAY, MAY 7

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

• The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents speaker Michael Goldbloom on "What's Ahead for Quebec Universities?" 12:30 pm at The Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free for members; visitors \$10. Sandwich lunch available for \$5 at 11:15 am. Info: 514.932.4005.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

"Mysteries of the Meconopsis" by Alexander Reford of Les Jardins de Métis /Reford Gardens on the blue poppy at the Westmount Horticultural Society meeting, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. See story, p. 29.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Westmount Municipal Association annual general meeting, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

The Thomas More Institute presents an interview with Antonia Maioni on health care, 7 to 9 pm. Second of four-part interview series on "Canadian Anxieties." 3405 Atwater. Cost \$10. Reserve: 514.935.9585.

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sports and hockey  
schedules

## Researching part of writing children's books, says Patkau



Author Karen Patkau spoke to an audience of some 50 people, with students from ECS and Marianopolis attending, on April 23 at the Westmount Public Library. This was the second event hosted by the library during the week of the Blue Met literary festival. She presented her books about nature, including her most recent series, which focuses on different ecosystems. She also told the audience about the writing process and how much research goes into writing for children.

Photo courtesy of The Westmount Public Library

## Reford to speak on the search for the blue poppy and other Himalayan plant treasures

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Alexander Reford, of Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens, will speak on the Tibetan blue poppy and other special Himalayan plants at the Tuesday, May 8 meeting of the Westmount Horticultural Society.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Westmount Public Library starting at 7 pm and is open to the public at an admission fee of \$5. Doors open at 6.30 pm for tea, coffee and homemade cookies.

Exploring the “Mysteries of the Meconopsis,” Reford will relate the adventures of “courageous explorers,” who gathered plants from the Himalayas, according to president Sally Cooke. “This is such a treat to have him present to us. It will be a

very special evening.”

The Himalayas, she explained, “have given us some of the most interesting and exotic plants – primula, gentians, rhododendron, lilies, irises – and of course the Himalayan blue poppy. Today, these plants entrance gardeners wherever they are grown.”

Reford will relate stories about adventurers who traversed dangerous mountain passes, fled from wild tribes, endured leeches and snakes, and suffered from the variations of the wild alpine climate – all for the sake of finding unusual plants for themselves and their patrons.

Film-maker Viveka Melki will film part of the talk for a documentary concerning the blue poppy and the intrigue surrounding its cultivation.

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Edythe Berman



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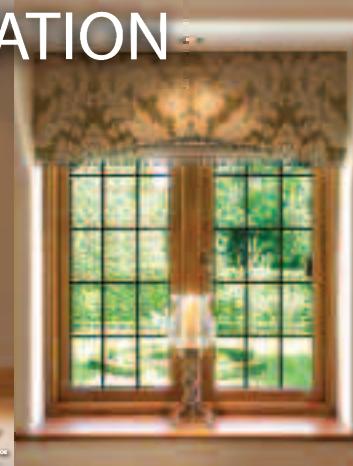
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# Ballets jazz de Montréal



*Social Notes  
from Westmount  
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On March 7, the honorary committee of the 40th Ballets Jazz de Montréal's Bal XL gathered with spouses and guests at Arsenal in Griffintown. A huge former shipbuilding site, it is named with a nod to Venice's famous 12th century Arsenale, used centuries ago for shipbuilding, and today for art during the Venice biennale.

The event was held in the Galerie Division part of the Arsenale and honoured the new members of the Bal XL committee: **Dominic Bécotte, Ranya Nasri, Olivier Perron-Collins, Keith Wilson and Muriel Amar.**

Present at the chic cocktail were **Olivier Akian**, director and senior banker with Crédit Agricole corporate and investment bank; **Dominic Bécotte**, partner, XPND Capital; **Erica Bloom**; **Mariano De Carolis**, director, Caisse Populaire Italienne; **Edith De Hearne**, Oxygène; **Catherine De Mon-**

**tigny**, Cohn & Wolfe; **Stéphane Eljarrat**, Davies & Ward; **Nassi Gasmi**, manager, KPMG; **Felix Gutierrez**, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin; **Paul Juneau**, president, Devgest; **Uriel Luft**; **Bernard Lachapelle**; **Nasri Ranya**, Nasri International; **Miller Thomson** and **Olivier Perron-Collins**, vice presi- *continued on p. 31*



Richard Gervais

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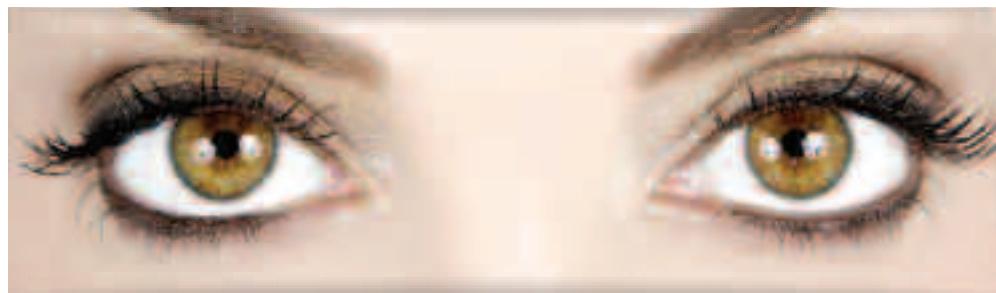
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# hosts Bal XL

continued from p. <None>



Andrew Molson, Geneviève Salbaing and her grandson Patrick Salbaing.

dent, Groupe Conseil BC2FP Inc.

The founder of Ballets Jazz de Montréal, the ever-elegant **Geneviève Salbaing**, was greeted by her son, **Pierre Salbaing**, president of the board of BJM and president/owner of Avance Services Réseaux; and grandson **Patrick Salbaing**, president, RAMP Ventures.

Westmounters in attendance were **Jean de Brabant**; **Lise Laberge**, **Richard Gervais**, president, Wagram; and **Andrew Molson**, co-chair of the 40th anniversary gala on May 5 with André Charron. Bubbly was served, and yes, Molson beer. For more info, visit [www.bjmdanse.ca](http://www.bjmdanse.ca).

## Shore's film wins three awards

Westmounter Michael Shore was one of the producers of *Hit 'N Strum* to win three of seven awards at the Canadian Film Festival March 31 in Toronto.

The film was awarded best actor, best cinematography and the William F. White Reel Canadian Indie Award, "awarded to the producers of the feature film that exemplifies the truest form of independent filmmaking – the shorter the shoe-strings, the better." The film, produced on a \$100,000 budget, is about a bittersweet modern day musical exploring an unlikely friendship.

Shore is a professional theatre, film and TV actor teacher and coach, and as well as working as a producer, also works in casting and in technical departments.



Michael Shore

Photo: Shannon Pratt



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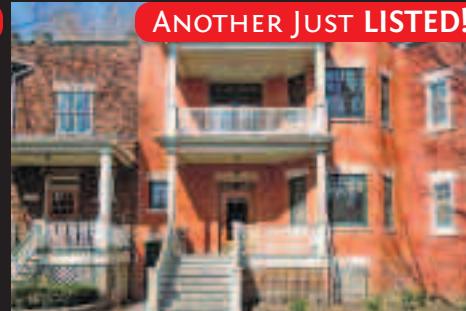
Quality built 1932 stone s/d. Remarkable original details. 3 bdrm + den. Large kitchen/family room. Central a/c. Indoor garage. Many significant improvements.



**ANOTHER JUST LISTED!**

Westmount, 4444 Sherbrooke #605  
**\$595,000**

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**ANOTHER JUST LISTED!**

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**\$845,000**

One of the MOST exquisitely restored, renovated homes to have ever come on the market! Breathtaking woodwork and panelling. 4 + bdrms. An absolute jewel!



**ANOTHER JUST SOLD!**

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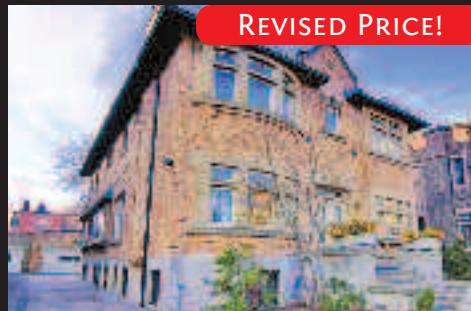
Rarely available! 1,980 sq ft, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo. 2 balconies + a 2-car garage!



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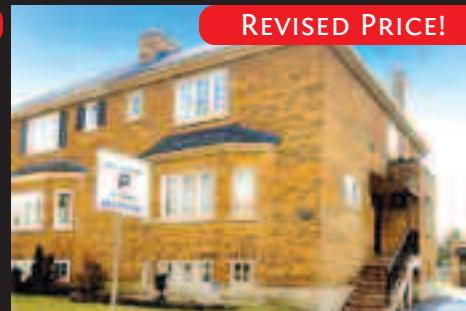
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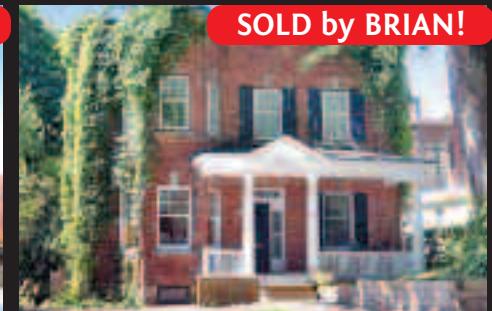
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Westmount, 485 Elm Ave.

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**SOLD by BRIAN!**

Westmount, 45 Summit Cres.  
**\$2,450,000**

Prestige location! What an opportunity! Ultra spacious home with potential to add a 2nd floor. Inground pool. 2 car garage.



**SOLD!**

Westmount, 3200 The Boulevard  
**\$1,575,000**

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