



A scene of Victoria village December 10 at 4 pm.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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WE ARE WESTMOUNT

December 17, 2014

City dips into surplus to keep tax hike at 2% in budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council announced a general 2-percent tax increase for 2015 at its budget meeting December 15. The

budget outlines spending of \$101 million off-set by an injection from surplus to reduce it to \$97 million

The city will apply some of the \$3.8 million infusion of accumulated surplus to absorb the loss of \$880,000 in the Quebec government's reduction in transfer payments and sales tax credits as well as to increase capital works spending.

The tax hike, uniform across all categories of property, will translate into a tax

bill of \$12,669 on the average single-family dwelling evaluated at \$1,404,256, said Councillor Victor Drury in presenting the budget. This includes an average \$248 for paying down the loan for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

In approving the budget, the council adopted tax rates per \$100 of property valuation at: \$0.9022 for residential properties of five units or less, \$0.9839 for apartment buildings with six or more units, and

\$3.5596 for non-residential properties.

These rates will be applied to the second year phase-in of the three-year property valuation roll.

Tax bills will be due in two installments, due February 27 and May 29.

\$12M for capital works

Also adopted was a three-year capital works budget outlining \$12.2 million of work for *continued on p. 26*



BUDGET NOTICES p. 20-22

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SOCIAL NOTES by V. REDGRAVE p. 25

RETAIL WATCH by M. BARRY p. 16

Other station 12 news

Crime remains 'low,' police issue 39% fewer traffic tickets

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the latest crime samplings for Westmount released by local police station 12 for August, September and October are described as low, the total number of traffic tickets issued by police within the city's borders dropped by almost 39 percent.

"Obviously the numbers are telling," said Commander Mathieu Bastien. "But

we have to look at more than that. The more we work on safety issues there are less places presenting the need for tickets."

Nevertheless, he added, when there's a significant drop, "obviously you have a problem. I'm pretty sure it's not only due to the conflict (over pension reform Bill 3) but that's part of it."

The total number of all tickets for the three-month period de- creased to 370 this year *continued on p. 24*

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Commercial to residential a no-go Council officially refuses Westmount Square permit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council December 15 took the unusual step to adopt a resolution refusing a permit. In this case it involves an application by the Elad, owner of Westmount Square, to convert its commercial tower to residential.

"We don't typically" do this, stated Councillor Theodora Samiotis in moving the resolution, but given the importance of Westmount Square, a 1* heritage complex, the resolution was deemed necessary.

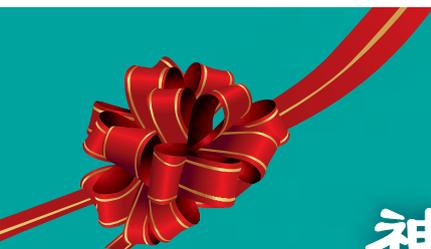
The resolution states that the council was approving a recommendation of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to refuse the permit based on three reasons.

These were: the effect that the proposed transformation to residential would have on the exterior and podium of a 1* building; "the loss of the main commercial building in an ensemble that pioneered mixed-use occupancies and that represents the sole creation of [architect] Mies van

der Rohe of this type; and the impact of the loss of a major office occupancy would have on the council's intent to maintain a strong commercial office component in the southeast sector.

Snow contractor ticketed at 3:58 am

A ticket for \$269 was issued to a private snow clearing contractor for working at 3:58 am on Grosvenor December 6, Public Security officials said. The tractor was spotted by a patroller dumping snow onto the street at Côte St. Antoine. Under the noise by-law, snow clearing by private contractors is banned from 9 pm to 7 am. Council decided last year, however, that once 10 cm of snow had fallen, the city would "tolerate" snow clearing between 5 am and 11 pm. That is, to shorten the prohibited period overnight to between 11 pm to 5 am (see story February 12, 2013, p. 1).



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Hospital officials deny noise violations while vowing to dampen ventilation din, meeting hears

By ISAAC OLSON

Hospital officials are vowing to do everything they can to dampen the noise emanating from the mega-sized medical facility just west of the Westmount border in NDG, even if it means modifying the air-extraction chimneys that line the research centre's roof.

At the same time, the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) is continuing to argue that, according to its acoustical expert's sound studies, the noise around the site is no worse than it was before the hospital was constructed – countering the claims of Westmount's own acoustic expert and the dozens of residents who say

they are losing sleep and can no longer peacefully enjoy their properties.

Some 50 people came to hear what hospitals officials have done and say they will do to combat the noise issue during a December 8 public meeting at Westmount's city hall. Groupe immobilier santé McGill (GISM) president Denis Crevier said that no matter how much they dampen the sounds, there will always be some noise as the hospital is a 24-hour medical facility that will never sleep once it's fully operational.

SNC-Lavalin's Tony Diroberto pored over a list of tests and actions that had been taken. It included temporarily reducing the ventilation system's output by

50 percent at night – an action several residents said did nothing to help the problem. Some residents said the noise had actually worsened in recent weeks and officials said noise tests included incrementally bringing the system up to full blast in order to identify what was causing specific sounds.

And, Crevier said that, looking ahead,

the system will need to be fired up to its full, standard operation by mid-December in order to accurately calibrate it for April's planned opening. This news brought groans from the audience.

Westmount's Urban Planning director, Joanne Poirier, said the city found the noise to be at least nine decibels over the limit set *continued on p. 24*



Westmounter John Dorey, a retired engineer, talks to hospital officials about a sound-dampening technology used to muffle jet engines during a public meeting in city hall December 8.

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Deegan appointed director general Lapointe heads Sports & Rec, new divisions led by Stacey, Maislin

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the appointment December 15 of Mike Deegan as the city's new director general, city council proceeded to approve a restructuring of the Sports and Recreation department into two divisions: Facilities and Operations. Dave Lapointe was appointed to head the department, replacing Deegan.

Bruce Stacey, who becomes Facilities manager and second-in-command of the department, was also appointed to the management position at the council meeting. Andrew Maislin becomes Operations manager in the new structure.

The two new divisions reflect the growth of the department's programs and requirements of the new Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Deegan told the *Independent*.

"I'm passing the torch to a great team," he said. "I left with a heavy heart. We built this team together."

Deegan on his appointment as assistant director general last August had been named by the council to succeed director general Duncan Campbell on his retirement January 9 (see story August 12, p. 1). In a 26-year career with the city, he had been its site coordinator for the Westmount recreation centre project as well as director of Sports and Recreation for more than 14 years.

"As a team, it's going to be a very, very strong group," he said of the Sports and Recreation staff. "Dave is loyal, dedicated and extremely detail-oriented. Bruce is customer friendly, charismatic, calm and reassuring, and Andrew is energetic, determined and has an unbelievable work ethic."



Awaiting their appointments at the city council meeting December 15 are, from left: Dave Lapointe, Mike Deegan and Bruce Stacey.

Under the new structure, positions held by the most recent hires – sports coordinators Michelle Dodds and Matthew Lawton – are being made permanent. This rounds out the team providing a diversity of skill sets, he explained, and "bridging the generation gap."

'Like family'

Deegan, 51, hired both Lapointe and Stacey fresh out of university in 1992, he recalled. "For me, they're like family."

Maislin, 31, he added, came through the city's sports program as a Westmount resident and joined the department as sports coordinator in 2007. He was previously a Zamboni driver. "He's like a son in a sense, a young boy in the department," Deegan said. "We're all so proud of him."

Lapointe, 46, has been interim director. He previously held positions of assistant director, sports administrator and sports coordinator. A resident of La Prairie, he is a graduate of Concordia majoring in recre-

ation administration. He also attended Dawson College.

Stacey, 49, has been the city's fundraising "ambassador" for the WRC. He was named coordinator of the \$6-million capital campaign in 2011 after working as sports coordinator. He is a graduate of McGill majoring in physical education and served as an instructor and leader in various positions in the university's athletics and phys. ed. departments as an undergraduate.

School bus backs into lamp post

The base of a city lamp post was cracked December 5 when hit by a school bus, Public Security officials said. The bus was reversing at Lansdowne Ridge and Upper Belmont around 1:25 pm when the mishap occurred.

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Trent between Coderre, UMQ on Moreau's 'threat'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While Westmount has decided to use surplus to cover its \$880,000 in losses from Quebec's cuts to municipalities, Mayor Peter Trent says he stands somewhere in between both sides of what has become a well-publicized municipal fight.

The Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) has come out on the side of Laval and Longueuil, which have increased taxes to cover their losses rather than using their surpluses, a method that raised the ire of Municipal Affairs minister Pierre Moreau. Moreau then threatened to pull some of their funding or surpluses to make up for the tax hikes.

On the other hand, Montreal mayor Denis Coderre has distanced himself from the issue, playing a role of peacemaker.

"I'm in between Coderre and the UMQ, which is 'hopping mad,'" Trent says.

"I can understand why Laval and Longueuil are annoyed," he explains. On the other hand, he says he has known Moreau "for years, and I feel he had a temporary lapse and I hope he starts working with us."

While municipalities are controlled by the provincial government, it's the mayors and councils who prepare their budgets and are elected to do so, Trent points out.

Laval and Longueuil are reported to have introduced tax increases in excess of 3 percent.

When the province announced the "downloading" of \$300 million in transfer payments November 5 and reduced tax credits, it stated this would translate on average to 1.2 percent of a municipality's operating budget. Municipalities, however, were advised to trim their costs to absorb the losses (see story November 18, p. 1).

Manhole uncovered

The cover of a manhole was found to have been dislodged at Argyle and Côte St. Antoine December 6, Public Security officials said. A patroller came across the dangerous situation at 3:40 am and found the cover some 12 feet away. Officers managed to put the heavy item back in place. It was thought to have been accidentally dislodged by snow cleaning equipment.

Pedestrian, cyclist safety questioned Trial assessed, Greene traffic lights reset

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Flashing red lights at Greene and de Maisonneuve were restored to their normal mode December 15, after a month-long trial of "all-way" stops.

The experiment had been requested by the city's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to determine how the intersection functions without as many cyclists at this time of year and without the use of pedestrian lights (see November 18, p. 3).

"The decision to terminate the test period for the winter was made following a series of observations," explained Councillor Patrick Martin, Public Works commissioner and a representative on the TAC.

Public Works director Marianne Zalzal, who chairs the TAC, told the *Independent* she had proposed that the lights be restored with the end of this phase of the trial but that the trial be resumed after the winter for comparison when there would be more cyclists.

Jonathan Auger, the city's traffic technician, had been assessing the first part of the trial at various times of the day and was reporting his finding to the TAC, she said.

Restoring the lights is expected to be welcomed by at least three "regulars" at the intersection who told the *Independent* that cars were either sliding through the flashing red lights or not stopping long enough to allow time for pedestrians or cyclists to cross.

"This type of traffic light constitutes a major hazard," said Edith Katz, a resident of Olivier Ave. "With early darkness and slippery conditions from now to March, the situation is perilous for everyone, including those driving a car." She said the street lighting was also dim, which didn't help.

Wesley McCoy, executive director of Centre Greene, also has similar concerns as both a pedestrian and cyclist. His observations from the trial were that many cars just slipped through the flashing red lights.

"Just standing at the intersection you can see the cars going through the red. I can see it would be problematic for people who take longer to cross. I don't think a lot of drivers realize they have to come to a full stop. There needs to be an awareness campaign."

"The flashing reds are very confusing and dangerous," said Glenn Neven, vice

president of the Greene Avenue Merchants Association and managing director of Birkenstock Naturino shoes. "People don't seem to know what to do. It would be much worse in the summer with all the cyclists."

He said he had already conveyed his concerns to Councillor Theodora Samiotis, who said she would "bring his input" to the council.

"I'm surprised, because during the construction last year when we had stop signs at the intersection they seemed to work well," she explained. "It's why we're trying it again." She said it could be that a lot of people don't know how to function at a four-way crossing.

She also said that dim street lighting compounded the problem.

"Anyone else who has concerns can call me," she said.

On the subject of street lighting of Greene, she acknowledged it was dim, especially at this "darkest time of year. Perhaps there needs to be a review of it."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO ONE STOPS

Someone is going to get killed because cars no longer stop at stop signs in Westmount.

From the vantage point of a window seat in Café Crème, I watched 30 or 40 vehicles roll through the intersection of Victoria and Somerville, travelling south. If one or two came to an actual stop it was only because another vehicle was already in the intersection or there was a pedestrian actually on the crosswalk. Most of the rest made a feeble gesture of slowing down a bit, though several didn't even bother.

This happens all day every day, largely because drivers know the police monitor that corner for stop sign infractions no more than twice a year. And that's just one corner.

It's time Westmount's Public Security officers were empowered to ticket such moving violations. All they need do is note the licence plate number of violators and the city can issue tickets by mail. Everybody wins. The city raises revenue, the safety of pedestrians is better protected, the police can concentrate on more important tasks and drivers can (perhaps) improve their skills.

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

ARE YOU ALLOWED TO PUT YOUR SNOW ON SIDEWALKS?

Yes, winter and snow. Why do some people and/or their contractors think the side walks are theirs to dump snow?

In regards to the photo (see below), if you are less than agile in any way (senior, handicapped), pushing a stroller or carrying bags, you are out of luck.

This part of the sidewalk was still blocked the next morning.

There should be a law. There probably is.

TED SANCTON, NDG-CÔTE DES NEIGES

COMMUNITY MAILBOXES SAFE ENOUGH?

A problem with community mailboxes already installed by Canada Post in some urban areas has been break-ins that typically occur about the time that social insurance and other regularly mailed cheques are issued. Canada Post needs to improve the security of its community mail boxes before attempting to eliminate door-to-door mail delivery in this area.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.



A mound of snow sits in the middle of the sidewalk on the east side of Victoria Ave. below The Boulevard, looking south December 11.

Photo courtesy of Ted Sancton

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

Under the attentive care and coaching of Westmount Sports and Recreation coordinator Michelle Dodds and Perry Lee Carrington, every Monday at lunchtime a group of local hockey moms meet at the Westmount recreation centre for some women's instructional hockey.

There is a never a dull moment as the 75-minute session is always filled with tough drills, pointers and a quick scrim-

mage where the latest skills learned are hopefully put into play.

Besides the many, often dramatic, falls, and missed shots, the women always enjoy a great workout, a sense of pride and a glimpse of progress.

Most importantly, hockey is just plain fun, and numerous laughs are shared by all. Hoping to see new victims, uh, participants, in 2015.

PASCALE DELHAYE, GROVE PARK



From left, top row: Michelle Dodds, Stephanie Klam, Emily Carson, Fiona Chai, Cheryl Cornforth and Perry Lee Carrington; bottom row: Lisa Mohammed, Jasmin Uthhoff and Pascale Delhaye. Other team members who were absent when the photo was taken were Sarah Dennis, Ingrid Kovitch and Tara Norris.

Photo courtesy of Pascale Delhaye

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Letters, cont'd. from p. 6

DOES THE CITY REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM CITIZENS?

In reporting on the inauguration of Prince Albert square, the December 9 issue of the *Independent* (p. 6) noted three public consultations on the project with the final one referred to as the “tweaking” one. I can only recall two: the first in April 2013 at Victoria Hall and the recent “tweaking” session at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).*

Last year, the concept for the square was presented as part of a wide-ranging discussion on the master plan for Victoria village. Discussion topics included zoning, potential new buildings, city taxes, major landlords, parking and the lack of a comprehensive plan for the village.

The square was just one item and prompted no discussion on its design. Analyzing a design takes more than a few minutes. Participants arriving for the second recent town hall at the WRC believed that it was to be the forum for a serious and substantive review of the design for the square. However, as Rick said in *Casablanca* “I was misinformed.” We all were. It was a sham.

When the first questioner, a local architect, got up to challenge the design, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, after a brief period, suggested he stop and let other people speak. The audience rather forcefully told her they would like him to proceed. Another Westmount architect also spoke up against the design. But we quickly discovered that comments other than on bike racks, benches or shrubbery were not wanted nor appreciated. What a waste!

The city should label in advance all future town halls two ways: either as serious and substantive (i.e. we value your input) or just “tweaking” (i.e. we have already made up our mind so don’t bother showing up.)

If the city truly desires a fully engaged community it should develop a more effective, reliable and consistent consultation process.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

** Editor’s note: In fact, there were two public consultations dealing with Prince Albert square: October 3, 2012 (story October 9, p. 3, 21) and April 8, 2013 (story April 16, p. 1); and the information meeting June 26, 2014 at the Westmount recreation centre (story July 8, p. 1).*

Y THE CHARGES?

The new Westmount YMCA director Cristina Romero seems to be more focused on the bottom line – charging new fees and hitting up non-profit community services to pay rent.

The proposed rent of up to \$112 an hour looks expensive compared to an elite private school paying \$130 an hour for an NHL-sized rink!

YMCA’s are not-profit oriented by design. They exist to meet unmet needs and offer “access for all” according to their mission statement.

When “the books are reviewed,” as Ms. Romero says, will she consider that money is donated by Centraide, the city of Westmount and privately, to allow the Y to offer community programs and services?

The Y’s day camp has use of Westmount Park without financial compensation to the city. With Ms. Romero’s model, rent should be paid for use of the park and volunteers paid.

The Y should be encouraging non-profit, community-run programs, not profiting from them.

MARIELLE BEAUCHEMIN, YORK ST.

FOR ANOTHER TO THE LETTER,
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Generator too noisy

A generator powering a house on Edgehill Rd. December 9 exceeded allowable noise levels, Public Security officials said. Responding to a complaint at 9:12 am, officers found the “very noisy machine” in operation and told the resident that despite the emergency situation, it must conform to by-law regulations. A ticket could be issued on a second offence.



★ **Sunday December 14**
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Upper level has different needs

Residents ask city to allow overnight snow clearing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council will be revisiting the city's hours of permitted snow removal, a contentious from Upper Roslyn was told at the city council meeting December 15.

Three of the residents who spoke and two of their snow removal contractors asked for greater toleration for the clearing of driveways overnight during heavy snow. Citing long driveways on the upper level, they said the city's current noise by-law and tolerations did not allow enough time for the work to be carried out efficiently or safely before people went to work or school children walked past.

One size does not fit all, they suggested, asking that the city be divided into two zones for different snow removal times in upper versus lower Westmount. Snow removal times had been set as a compromise to spare residents the noise of large parking lots being cleared throughout the night.

While the noise by-law bans snow removal by private contractors between 9 pm and 7 am, the previous council had agreed to tolerate snow removal as late as

11 pm and as early as 5 am after snow had reached 10 cm.

Elyse Desforges de Kovachich presented council with a series of photos taken that morning showing impassable sidewalks and large snow banks on Upper Roslyn. She asked why the city had still not cleaned their street after what was reported to have been a 30-cm snow fall the week before.

The problem, she added, was compounded by the private contractors who were faced with long driveways that could not all be cleaned properly when they were not able to work overnight.

"You bring up a good point," Mayor Peter Trent said.

"We're going to look at an overnight tolerance," said newly appointed director general Mike Deegan. "I think it's the way to go." There are only four or five big storms a year, he said.

Other residents asked who was measuring the snow to determine it had reached 10 cm? It could be one depth at one end of a driveway and another at the other end. They also asked the city to cancel tickets given recently to contractors working during the prohibited period.



Elyse Desforges de Kovachich addresses city council December 15 on snow removal.

"We're essential to these people," said one contractor who stated he can't get to

the driveways because of the by-law. "Public Security is on our butt," he added.

Renos at Y stopped until requirements fulfilled for permit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Structural renovations in the foyer of the Westmount Y are on hold until the required architectural plans are received and approved so a permit can be issued, city officials said last week.

The work was stopped by Urban Planning inspectors November 3 after a user of

the facility called to express concerns about the work, confirmed chief inspector Christopher Rogers. Two days later, the department also received an incident report about overnight work from Public Security, he added (see story November 18, p. 8).

Design plans subsequently presented to the city along with the Y's permit applica-

tion were not sufficient for the type of work being carried out especially in a public building governed by the Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ), he said. The RBQ delegates its authority to the city.

The work involves the addition of a handicapped washroom just inside the main entrance and other modifications such as changes to staircases, Rogers explained.

The current staircase leading downstairs is to be reversed to provide secured upstairs passage for daycare parents, said Y executive director Cristina Romero who manages the local branch. Those stairs leading up would be reversed to go down to the pool area. The entire entrance area is to be rearranged.

She maintained the work was not on hold, was still under way and referred questions about the current status to André Guitard, regional YMCA building manager.

Shower work finished

Guitard acknowledged the work had indeed been stopped until the architectural plans could be submitted. Work in the

shower area of the women's locker room, a separate project, involved ceramic and floor covering work, he said. A separate handicapped-accessible toilet stall also was created. It was now complete despite complications that had prolonged the work.

A user of the Y, who contacted the *Independent*, said she had found out December 1 that the work in the foyer had been stopped, almost a month later. The work on the women's showers was supposed to take one month but lasted more than three months making it a challenge to take a shower.

Westmounter Kathleen Duncan, a 15-year Y member, said she had had "no notification that this work was up and coming, its duration or any information on the implications and positives I will enjoy as a result.

"We've just gone through renovations. I can't believe we're back into them," Duncan said. As someone who works out at the Y gym five mornings a week, she said, she was disappointed at the lack of communication.

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Westmount Historical Association marks 70th anniversary



Members of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) celebrated its 70th anniversary on December 11 with a gathering in the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Special guests were Westmount-St. Louis provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon and Westmount city councillors Nicole Forbes and Theodora Samiotis. The evening's speaker was Roderick MacLeod of Quebec Heritage News, which is published by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. Seen here as the anniversary cake is cut, from the left: WHA board members Caroline Breslaw and Louise Carpentier, president Doreen Lindsay, Chagnon, and WHA members Sharon Sparling and Anne Barkman.

Photos: Martin C. Barry



Westmount city councillor Theodora Samiotis, left, hands former WHA treasurer David Freeman a city of Westmount lapel pin during the WHA's 70th anniversary gathering.

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Services municipaux : période des Fêtes

Pendant la période des Fêtes 2014-2015, les bureaux administratifs de l'Hôtel de Ville, d'Hydro Westmount, des Travaux publics, des Sports et loisirs et de la Sécurité publique seront fermés du 24 au 26 décembre et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier. **Veillez noter que la collecte d'ordures du jeudi (secteur est) sera devancée d'une journée, soit les mercredi 24 et 31 décembre.**

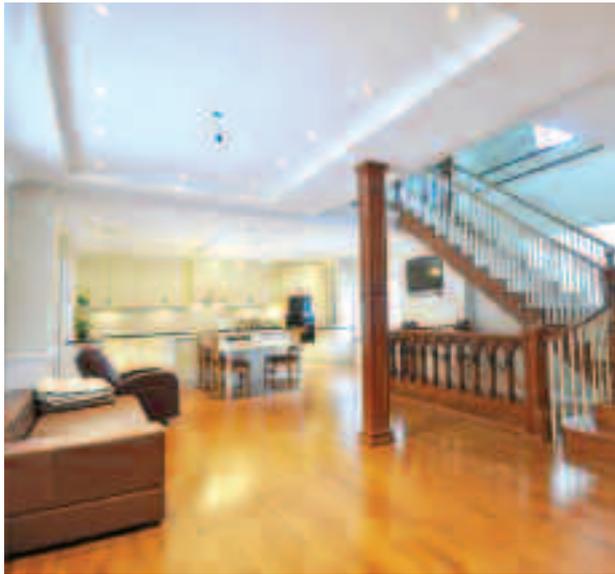
Municipal Services: Holiday Period

During the 2014-2015 holiday season, administrative offices at City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Sports & Recreation and Public Security will be closed from December 24th to 26th and from December 31st to January 2nd. **Please note that the Thursday garbage collection (eastern sector) will be moved up by one day and take place Wednesdays December 24th and 31st.**

HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	LUN / MON 22	MAR / TUE 23	MER / WED 24	JEU / THU 25	VEN / FRI 26	SAM / SAT 27	DIM / SUN 28	LUN / MON 29	MAR / TUE 30	MER / WED 31	JEU / THU 1	VEN / FRI 2	SAM / SAT 3	DIM / SUN 4
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BIBLIOTHÈQUE - LIBRARY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h		fermé closed		10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h		fermé closed		10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h
CONSERVATOIRE CONSERVATORY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	fermé closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	fermé closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h
CENTRE DES LOISIRS RECREATION CENTRE	12 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	9 - 17 h	fermé closed	12 h - 20 h	8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	9 - 17 h	fermé closed	12 h - 20 h	7 h 30 - 22 h	7 h 30 - 23 h
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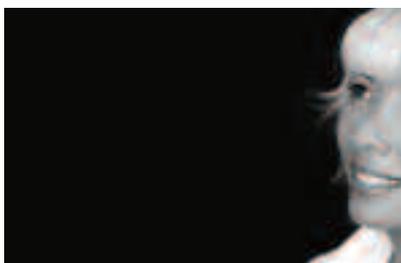


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ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

"The Big Story: Non-governmental Organizations" in *The New Internationalist*, December 2014, p. 12-27. A series of articles on NGOs – do they really help?

"Unnoticed Truths: Zin Taylor's European Adventure" by David McFarlane in *Canadian Art*, Winter 2015, p. 120-127. Canadian artist Zin Taylor has settled in Brussels to pursue his art practice, which ranges from installation art to sculpture to writing to performance art.

"Tendances 2015: 17 pages de découvertes" dans *L'actualité*, janvier 2015, p. 22-41. Les grands courants qui marqueront 2015.

English e-books – Favourite British authors

The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher and Other Stories by Hilary Mantel – A brilliant collection of short stories from the double Man Booker Prize-winning author of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*.

The Girl Next Door by Ruth Rendell – In the waning months of the World War II, a group of children discover an earthen tunnel in their neighbourhood outside London. Years later, the discovery of bones in a tin box in the tunnel sends shockwaves across the group of long-time friends.

Livres numériques

Hérétiques by Leonardo Padura – In 1939, 900 Jewish immigrants are waiting aboard a ship in Havana. Daniel Kaminsky and his uncle are expecting their close ones to disembark and also the delivery of a family-owned Rembrandt. However, the ship will ultimately sail back to Germany. Years later, the painting is up for sale in London.

Soeurs volées by Emmanuelle Walter –

This work of non-fiction aims to heighten public awareness of the numerous tragic disappearances or murders of Canadian native women. Walter has investigated such a case: In 2008, two teenagers disappeared from a north-western Quebec reservation. Police and media apathy was obvious, especially looking at the efforts made around the same time to find missing white teens.

Adult English – Cozy mysteries

Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas: Being a Jane Austen Mystery by Stephanie Barron – Invited to spend the Christmas holiday season of 1814 at the ancestral home of the wealthy Chute family, Jane investigates the suspicious death of a Yuletide reveler whose killer is among the snowbound guests.

Silent Murders by Mary Miley – When movie studio bigwig Bruno Heilmann and an old friend are brutally murdered, vaudeville actress Jessie Carr, with a face not yet famous enough to be recognized, uses her unique position to investigate these deaths and get her career back on track.

Adult French – Quebec mystery authors

Le déni by Anna Raymonde Gazaille – In a multi-ethnic Montreal neighborhood, a young immigrant woman is found dead. Is this suicide, murder or an honour killing? Inspector Paul Morel and his colleagues have to sail blind, facing a community barricaded behind their cultural codes.

Violence à l'origine by Martin Michaud – Detective Victor Lessard has to investigate the murder of a high-ranking Montreal police officer. Without essential support and pressured by his superiors, he must act fast; the killer has left a message announcing that there will be future victims.

DVDs

Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery – The vil-

lage of Three Pines, a refuge from the modern world in the beautiful Eastern Townships, basks in the tranquil glory of its autumn colours. But the blazing woods conceal the body of a much-loved teacher – shot through the heart with an arrow. A tragic hunting accident or murder? Charismatic chief inspector Armand Gamache and his team of officers probe to discover deep layers of deceit, resentment and murderous rage in the pretty village. Based on the book by Louise Penny.

The Irishman, Child of the Gael – Our narrator Sean recounts his maternal and paternal ancestors' dramatic immigrant experience in Canada from the 1800s to the early 20th century. Fleeing desperate conditions in Ireland, survival in the new world is a struggle of a different sort, involving quarantine, isolation and back-breaking employment, building the Victoria bridge, constructing the railways and canals that will open Canada's frontiers to trade and settlement. Directed by G. Scott MacLeod.

Holiday books for children

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel by Caryn Yacowitz – A new twist on a popular folksong to be enjoyed by all during the holiday season!

Plume et les cadeaux de Noël by Rebecca Harry – Plume finds himself all alone on Christmas Eve but he comes up with a brilliant idea to pass the time.

Reference

Consumer Reports Best & Worst New Cars.
Le guide du vin Phaneuf 2015: les grappes d'or.



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Contactivity rings in the holidays



Contactivity Centre's annual Christmas dinner was held on December 4. About 120 members gathered together for a turkey dinner prepared by Westmounter Janet Faith and her family, and served by volunteers led by Westmount resident Sharyn Scott. The Beavers and Cubs welcomed the members with a holiday song and assisted in the cloak room and dining hall. Westmount Public Security provided transportation home to the seniors after the dinner. Donations of food and toys were given to St. Columba House. From left, back row: Joanne Gibb, Greita Morse, Nina Seidl, Tiffany Scott and Charlotte Scott; front row: Sharyn Scott, Janet Faith, Robert Bailey, Kathy Hewitt, Edna Ralston and Hunter Scott.

Photo courtesy of Contactivity

Mountainside United hosts dinner with Afghans



A multicultural dinner was held at Mountainside United Church on December 10 with members of Montreal's Afghan community. The evening offered Mountainside members an opportunity to meet people from the Montreal Afghan community who shared their experiences of life in that country and in Quebec. Two members of the Afghan community, Angela Zaheer, far right, and Najia Osman (centre) hold trays of an Afghan dish called brani badngal. They are seen here with, from left, Elva Crawford, Anita Carrier, Elizabeth Neufeld and Miriam Tees.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Westmount Retail Watch

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Melting Spot opens

The Melting Spot, located at 4126 St. Catherine St. has been open for less than three months. This primarily business-hour haunt took over a locale that was previously occupied by the London Bus Café.

While muffins and take-out coffee are a mainstay, also on the menu are salads, sandwiches, quiche and wraps. Chicken tagine, a Moroccan specialty, is one of the hot dishes that can be eaten there or taken out.

Reda Khallouki, who co-owns the Melting Spot along with Othman Merabet, said that all the produce used in salads comes from farms and gardens in Canada.



Melting Spot co-owner Reda Khallouki at his St. Catherine St. café/restaurant December 5.

Oyster-loving?

Lucille's Oyster Dive, whose first location opened on Monkland Ave. in NDG in 2009, is scheduled to open a new locale at 4124 St. Catherine St. in Westmount.

While a sign in the window proclaims an autumn 2014 opening for Lucille's brasserie Oyster Dive, a peek inside on December 5 revealed that considerable



The exterior of Lucille's new and as-yet unopened location on St. Catherine St. on December 5.

work remains to be done.

An employee at Lucille's NDG location confirmed they will be opening in Westmount, although she was unable to say when. In addition to oysters, Lucille's menu features a wide range of seafood and beef dishes.

New pizzeria pops up on St. Catherine

About a block west of Greene Ave. on St. Catherine St. is Bacaro Urban Pizzeria. It gets its name from the bustling taverns, which, in Venice, are regarded as meeting



Left, Jordan Mattia and Vincenzo Papa prepare a thin-crust pizza at Bacaro on December 5.

places where friends stop in to enjoy good food and wine. Bacaro claims to be the only restaurant in Westmount that serves thin-crust pizza baked in a wood-fired oven.

"We also do gourmet salads – some of the best I've ever had," the restaurant's manager Charles Fox told the *Independent*. In addition, the menu includes oven-baked pasta and a half-dozen dessert offerings. Bacaro is fully-licensed and has a century-old oak wood bar.

New pilates studio opens on Greene

For those curious about or already into Pilates, a new studio offering a classical version of this physical fitness method is opening on Greene Ave.

Operated by Lorraine Kelley and Charlie Michael, Contrology Classical Pilates & Wellness Studio was to hold its first classes on December 11.

According to Kelley, classical Pilates adheres closely to the Pilates method created by its originator, Joseph Pilates, rather than a more contemporary version that is taught

at some Pilates studios.

"We are a fully-equipped studio, including pieces of equipment not seen in Montreal before," Kelley told the *Independent*.



Contrology Classical Pilates & Wellness Studio co-owner Lorraine Kelley demonstrates a Pilates exercise on December 5.

Comin' Up

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Free public lecture on "Great Teachers of China, Persia and the Americas" at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. at 3:15 pm. Questions and discussion following. Info: 514.845.8325.

2015!

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

Alan Bradley, author of "As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust: A Flavia de Luce Mystery," speaks at the Westmount Public Library, 2 pm. Free. Register at circulation desk.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

2 O'Clock Series: "Opera 101: Samson and Delilah with George Wall," at the Westmount Public Library, 2 pm. Free.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

The works of Elizabeth Cameron at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until February 7.

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The trials and triumphs of winter in Westmount



NDG resident Elizabeth Levey takes her three pugs to the Hôpital Vétérinaire de Montréal on December 11. Grover, Petunia and Pauly, an adopted pug from Southern Nevada Pug Rescue, were going for their health certificates in preparation for travel to Los Angeles.

Photo: Staff



Snow is shovelled off a rooftop onto a recently plowed alleyway the morning of December 12.

Photo: WI



A bus swooshes by near Sherbrooke and Lansdowne December 11 at 11:20 am.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



A hermit thrush drinks from a backyard pond in lower Westmount December 8. Despite the frozen temperature, the water was flowing due to an air pump in the pond to keep the hibernating fish alive. In the cold winter climate, the thrush switches its eating habits from bugs to berries.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

November sales: Glass half full



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchases of Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in November 2014. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

Mark-ups may have moved down slightly but the month of November showed great promise in Westmount real

estate, with two more sales over \$2 million – and another \$3 million-plus on October 30 – giving an indication that buyers may be ready to pay the hefty prices demanded by vendors of some of Westmount's larger homes.

The average price of 11 sales in November was just over \$1,700,000, but mark-ups were only two percent above valuation, with five of the one- and two-family homes selling for less than tax value. Still, only four of the 11 carried prices less than \$1.5 million and the highest was \$3,998,000.

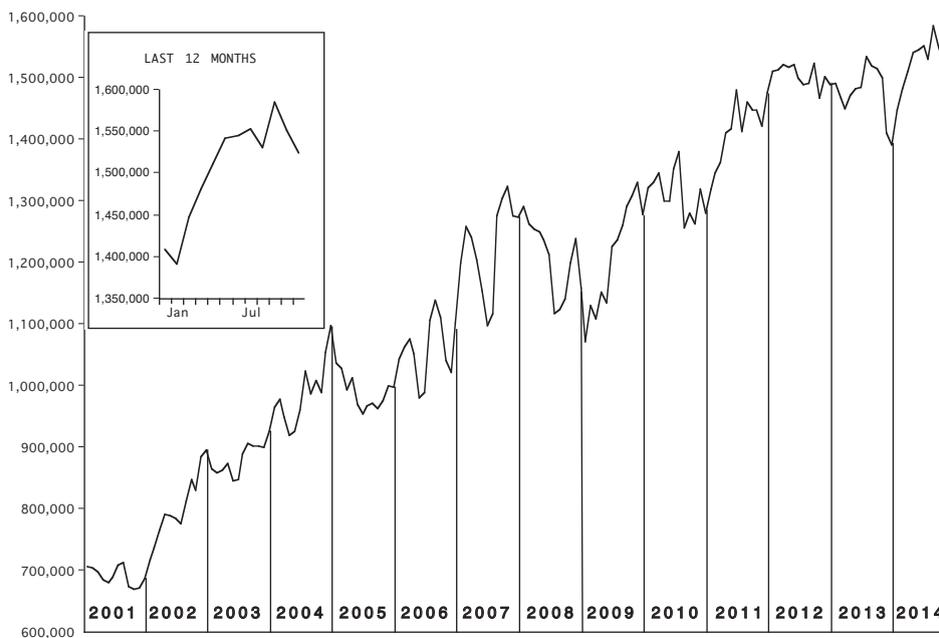
In fact, though the graph might indicate that prices are sliding somewhat, we prefer to point out that since April the adjusted price of the "typical" Westmount house has hovered around \$1,550,000 and will probably stay that way through December, to round out the year.

Agents say there are still plenty of buyers out there. As of last week, those buyers had 138 MLS listings to choose from, almost 50 percent of which were over \$2 million and only four for asking prices less than \$800,000.

The condominium market was virtually dead during November, it appears, with only one co-op in Westmount Square to add to the totals. Of the four condo sales we have tallied for the fourth quarter of 2014, three took more than 300 days each to sell, and the average days-on-market for the fourth quarter is 341, almost exactly the same as it had been in the third quarter of the year.

In adjacent-Westmount areas, six house sales were posted in November, the last one on November 12, an indication buyers were more inclined to choose the more expensive Westmount properties. In fact, the last three outside the city limits (two in Côte des Neiges, one on Redpath Crescent) were all over \$1 million, an indication the buyers are willing to commit more to

Average adjusted price of 'typical' Westmount home, by month, Jan. 2001 to Nov. 2014, based on accepted offer dates.



their homes than they were, say, two or three months ago.

Suffice to say there appears to be a stir in the Westmount real estate market, though we expect volume to fall off during the holiday season, and we are not quite sure how the falling oil prices are going to affect the overall economy. But at this point any-

Ticket for early start

A ticket for \$269 was to be issued to a contractor for starting work December 5 before 7 am, Public Security officials said. The early start was confirmed following a complaint concerning construction at the condo development at 215 Redfern.

way, we are looking at a glass half full.

Dog found at 2:20 am after noise complaint

A loose dog was returned to its owners December 3 at 2:20 am following a call about men yelling for help in Westmount Park near Academy Rd., Public Security officials said. Responding at 1:56 am, officers discovered three men at that location looking for a lost dog. Moments later, however, a call was received from someone finding the dog on de Maisonneuve at Victoria. Officers picked it up and returned it. The owner was advised to obtain a dog licence.

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Westmouter settles out of court with condo developer

By JOANNE PENHALE

A lawsuit involving a Westmount resident and a condominium developer is scheduled to appear before the Quebec Superior Court this January. Marilyn Golfman is the plaintiff, and Les Condominiums Redfern Inc. is the defendant.

However, according to Golfman's legal counsel, Robert Pancer of Phillips Friedman Kotler, the parties settled out of court last week.

"It's to our client's satisfaction," Pancer

told the *Independent* of the agreement. He stressed that its terms and conditions could not be discussed.

According to legal documents, in June 2011, Golfman entered into a preliminary agreement to purchase a unit in the yet-to-be built condominium at 215 Redfern Ave. The lawsuit involved a request to cancel this promise to purchase, as well as to reimburse deposits totalling \$227,535, as well as damages of \$20,000.

"[My client] was told the project would be delivered by a given date," Pancer said,

and that she had agreed to some postponements. A lawsuit was filed in 2013 when it was clear the condo would not be ready by a given date. In a story published in the *Independent* on March 8, 2011 ("Former Reader's Digest HQ to become condo building," p. 3), the project was to be ready "by the end of 2012." On May 27, it was re-

ported that the project would be ready by end of summer 2014 ("215 Redfern ETA: End of summer," p. 14).

Freelance reporter for the *Independent* Michael Moore had been called by the plaintiff as a witness in regards to his story published in November about the condominium *continued on p. 24*



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1476

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le règlement n° 1476 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 1318 SUR LES TARIFS » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors de sa deuxième séance extraordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 15 décembre 2014.

Ce règlement a pour objet de mettre à jour les tarifs, dont, entre autres, ceux relatifs à la délivrance de permis, à la reproduction de documents et aux activités offertes par le Service des sports et loisirs, ainsi que d'abroger certains articles qui ne sont plus utiles et d'introduire de nouveaux tarifs visant divers services offerts par la Ville.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur le 1^{er} janvier 2015.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le règlement sur le site Web de la Ville au www.westmount.org, et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 17 décembre 2014.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1476

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law No. 1476 entitled "BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1318 CONCERNING TARIFFS" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its second special sitting held at City Hall on December 15, 2014.

The object of this by-law is to update the tariffs, among others, relating to the issuance of permits, the reproduction of documents, activities offered by Sports & Recreation, as well as to repeal certain sections that are no longer in use, and introduce new tariffs concerning various services offered by the City.

This by-law comes into force as of January 1st, 2015.

Any interested person may consult the by-law on the City's Website at: www.westmount.org, and obtain copies at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

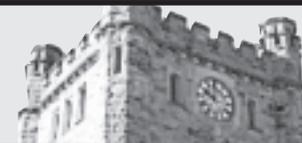
GIVEN at Westmount, this December 17, 2014.

Me Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza
Greffière de la Ville / City Clerk

www.westmount.org



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1477

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le règlement 1477 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT VISANT À IMPOSER ET À PRÉLEVER UNE TAXE ET UNE COMPENSATION POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 2015 » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors de sa deuxième séance extraordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 15 décembre 2014.

L'objet de ce règlement vise à :

- imposer et prélever la taxe foncière générale sur tous les immeubles situés sur le territoire de la municipalité, basée sur la valeur portée au rôle d'évaluation ; et
- imposer le paiement d'une compensation pour services municipaux aux propriétaires des immeubles ou terrains situés sur le territoire.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur le 1^{er} janvier 2015.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le règlement sur le site Web de la Ville au www.westmount.org, et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 17 décembre 2014.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1477

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law 1477 entitled "BY-LAW TO IMPOSE AND LEVY A TAX AND A COMPENSATION FOR THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its second special sitting held at City Hall on December 15, 2014.

The object of this by-law is:

- to impose and levy a tax on all taxable immovables in the territory of the municipality, based on their value shown on the assessment roll; and
- to impose the payment of compensation for municipal services on the owners of immovables or lands situated in the territory.

This by-law shall come into force on January 1st, 2015.

Any interested person may consult the by-law on the City's Website at: www.westmount.org, and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 17, 2014.

Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza
Greffière / City Clerk

www.westmount.org


Ville de WESTMOUNT

City of WESTMOUNT

	BUDGET 2014 \$	BUDGET 2015 \$	NOTES	
REVENUS				REVENUES
TAXE FONCIÈRE GÉNÉRALE				GENERAL PROPERTY TAX
Résidentielle (1 à 5 logements) *	52,705,100	54,180,800	(1)	* Residential (1 to 5 units)
Immeubles de 6 logements ou plus	6,637,000	6,756,100		Apartments (6 or more units)
Immeubles non résidentiels *	21,836,700	22,546,500		* Non-Residential Properties
Provision pour contestation et construction	(250,000)	(250,000)		Provision for Contestation and Construction
Taxe foncière générale	80,928,800	83,233,400		General Property Tax
Autres revenus - taxes sur terrains vacants *	457,200	528,000		* Other - Taxes on Vacant Lots
Taxe foncière générale totale	81,386,000	83,761,400	(1)	Total - General Property Tax
PAIEMENTS TENANT LIEU DE TAXES				COMPENSATION IN LIEU OF TAXES
Gouvernement du Canada	153,400	166,600		Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Québec	2,436,000	2,416,200	(2)	Government of Quebec
Autres (programmes en compensation - bonification)	1,127,500	509,400	(2)	Other (Compensation Programs - Allowance)
Compensation pour services municipaux	73,900	73,900		Compensation - Municipal Services Tax
	3,790,800	3,166,100		
AUTRES SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES
Activités récréatives	810,000	1,145,000	(3)	Recreational Activities
Bibliothèque	109,200	109,200		Library
Stationnement	3,200,000	3,300,000	(4)	Parking
Recouvrables et autres revenus	88,100	86,400		Recoverable and Other Revenues
	4,207,300	4,640,600		
AUTRES REVENUS DE SOURCES LOCALES				OTHER REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES
Droits sur les mutations immobilières	3,300,000	3,300,000		Duty on Transfer of Immovable
Amendes	2,350,000	2,248,300	(4)	Court Fines
Intérêts sur les dépôts à court terme	20,000	125,000		Interest on Short-Term Deposits
Intérêts et pénalités sur les arrérages de taxes	200,000	200,000		Interest/Penalties on Tax Arrears
Licences et permis	529,500	650,000		Licenses and Permits
	6,399,500	6,523,300		
SUBVENTION DU QUÉBEC À LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE	18,300	22,000		QUÉBEC LIBRARY GRANT
SERVICES RENDUS ET TRANSFERTS				OTHER REVENUES AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS
Traitement des matières secondaires	367,900	414,300		Recycling and Refuse
Recouvrables - Service des incendies de MTL	200,000	175,100		Recoverable from MTL Fire Department
	567,900	589,400		
DISTRIBUTION D'ÉLECTRICITÉ				UTILITY OPERATION
Revenu brut	30,346,100	31,075,400		Gross Revenue
Coût d'opération	(29,246,400)	(29,975,400)		Operating Cost
Surplus net d'exploitation	1,099,700	1,100,000		Net Operating Surplus
Immobilisations imputées au Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)	(2,325,000)	(2,704,400)		Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses
REVENU TOTAL	95,144,500	97,098,400		TOTAL REVENUE

* Les chiffres de 2014 ont été redressés pour être conformes à la présentation adoptée en 2015.

2014 numbers have been adjusted in order to be comparable with 2015.

Notes explicatives - Explanatory Notes

- (1) Ajout au rôle provenant de nouvelles constructions dépassant 800 K\$.
Additional roll value generated by new construction is over \$800 K.
- (2) Réduction des paiements en lieu de taxes par le gouvernement du Québec.
Decrease in compensation in lieu of taxes by Government of Quebec.
- (3) Hausse des inscriptions aux activités récréatives en lien avec le CLW.
Increase in Sports & Recreation activities registrations related to the WRC.
- (4) Réduction des amendes compensées par une hausse des revenus de stationnements.
Decrease in court fines offset by increase in parking revenue.


Ville de WESTMOUNT
 City of WESTMOUNT

	BUDGET 2014 (Adopted) \$	BUDGET 2015 \$	NOTES	
DÉPENSES				EXPENDITURE
ADMINISTRATION GÉNÉRALE				GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
Législation - conseil	435,600	435,600		Legislation - Council
Gestion financière et administrative	2,974,000	2,802,800		Finance and General Administration
Greffe et département juridique	1,004,400	1,023,800		City Clerk and Legal Department
Ressources humaines	830,200	1,001,300		Human Resources
Édifices administratifs	255,700	258,200		Administration Buildings
5,499,900	5,521,700			
SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE				PUBLIC SECURITY
Édifice de la police	23,500	23,700		Police Building
Sécurité publique	3,355,700	3,401,300		Public Security
3,379,200	3,425,000			
VOIRIE				ROAD TRANSPORT
Administration	1,506,500	1,609,300		Administration
Voirie municipale	2,681,800	2,754,200		Streets and Sidewalks
Enlèvement et transport de la neige	3,273,900	3,457,400	(1)	Snow Removal and Disposal
Éclairage des rues	449,000	456,600		Street Lighting
Circulation	647,200	663,900		Traffic Control
Stationnement	167,300	174,400		Parking Lots
8,725,700	9,115,800			
HYGIÈNE DU MILIEU				SANITATION SERVICES
Entretien des réseaux d'égouts locaux et d'aqueduc	2,050,800	2,083,400		Local Water & Sewer System Maintenance
Enlèvement des ordures et matières secondaires	1,506,000	1,521,700		Refuse Collection and Recycling
3,556,800	3,605,100			
ZONAGE ET MISE EN VALEUR DU TERRITOIRE	1,182,200	1,260,700	(2)	ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
LOISIRS ET CULTURE				SPORTS AND RECREATION
Administration	776,300	874,700	(2)	Administration
Événements communautaires	866,500	859,700		Community Events
Aréna *	792,200	796,200		* Arena
Piscine *	270,800	247,500		* Swimming Pool
Programmes de récréation	434,500	516,600	(2)	Recreation Programs
Parcs, terrains de jeux et serre	2,987,600	3,093,700		Parks, Playgrounds and Greenhouse
6,127,900	6,388,400			
BIBLIOTHÈQUE	2,633,200	2,726,100		LIBRARY
AUTRES	1,270,800	1,224,100		OTHER
DÉPENSES MUNICIPALES CONTRÔLABLES	32,375,700	33,266,900	(3)	CONTROLLABLE MUNICIPAL EXPENSES
AUTRES DÉPENSES				OTHER EXPENDITURE
Service de la dette et autres frais de financement	7,603,900	7,340,000		Debt Service and Other Financing Costs
Transfert pour hygiène du milieu	(222,700)	(248,200)		Transfer for Water and Sewer Network
Transfert pour Centre des loisirs de Westmount	(1,181,900)	(1,162,300)		Transfer for Westmount Recreation Centre
Fonds de pension et avantages sociaux futurs	3,345,500	3,649,700	(4)	Pension and Future Benefits
Réserve et éventualités	516,000	516,000		Provision and Contingencies
Recouvrables	226,100	221,900		Recoverables
Immobilisations imputées au Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)	4,131,000	5,137,500		Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses
14,417,900	15,454,600			
COMMUNAUTÉ MÉTROPOLITAINE DE MONTRÉAL	848,300	852,500		MONTRÉAL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY
QUOTE-PART AGGLOMÉRATION	50,819,700	51,324,300		SHARE - AGGLOMERATION
AFFECTATION DE L'EXCÉDENT ACCUMULÉ	(3,317,100)	(3,799,900)	(5)	APPROPRIATION FROM ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
TOTAL DES DÉPENSES APRÈS AFFECTATION	95,144,500	97,098,400		TOTAL EXPENDITURES AFTER APPROPRIATION

* Les chiffres de 2014 ont été redressés pour être conformes à la présentation adoptée en 2015.
 2014 numbers have been adjusted in order to be comparable with 2015.

Notes explicatives - Explanatory Notes

- (1) Augmentation importante du coût du sel.
Significant increase in salt cost.
- (2) Dépenses plus élevées compensées par des revenus plus élevés.
Higher expenses offset by higher revenues.
- (3) Réduction du taux de récupération de la taxe de vente provinciale de 62,8% en 2014 à 50% en 2015 augmentant les dépenses de 130 K\$.
Decrease in provincial tax rebate from 62.8% in 2014 to 50% in 2015 increasing costs by \$130 K.
- (4) Augmentation des coûts du fonds de pension.
Cost increase in pension plan.
- (5) Affectation de l'excédent accumulé pour financer les PAYG et le budget d'exploitation.
Additional appropriation from accumulated surplus to finance PAYG and the operating budget.


PROGRAMME D'IMMOBILISATIONS - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM
2015-2016-2017

Catégorie de projets - Project Category	2015		2016		2017	
	Net ⁽¹⁾	Brut - Gross	Net ⁽¹⁾	Brut - Gross	Net ⁽¹⁾	Brut - Gross
Municipal						
1. Bâtiments - Buildings	\$ 1,037,400	\$ 1,037,400	\$ 961,600	\$ 961,600	\$ 986,900	\$ 986,900
2. Chemins - Roads	2,623,100	2,653,500	3,210,500	3,210,500	2,130,500	2,859,400
3. Réseau d'aqueduc et d'égouts - Water and Sewer Network	698,500	1,832,300	698,500	1,832,300	1,214,800	1,619,700
4. Parcs - Parks	544,100	693,400	904,050	1,384,900	575,000	828,100
5. Véhicules - Vehicles	491,000	491,000	575,100	575,100	481,000	481,000
6. Informatique - Information Systems	352,200	352,200	361,200	361,200	370,200	370,200
7. Divers - Miscellaneous	551,700	551,700	369,500	369,500	253,100	253,100
Total Municipal	\$ 6,298,000	\$ 7,611,500	\$ 7,080,450	\$ 8,695,100	\$ 6,011,500	\$ 7,398,400
Hydro Westmount						
8. Projets majeurs - Major Projects	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 2,510,000	\$ 2,510,000	\$ 2,730,000	\$ 2,730,000
9. Véhicules - Vehicles	285,000	285,000	100,000	100,000	370,000	370,000
10. Projets municipaux - Municipal Projects	237,800	237,800	141,800	141,800	141,800	141,800
Total Hydro Westmount	\$ 2,472,800	\$ 2,472,800	\$ 2,751,800	\$ 2,751,800	\$ 3,241,800	\$ 3,241,800
Projets spéciaux non récurrents - Non-recurring special projects						
1. Nouveau système de facturation Hydro Westmount - New Hydro Westmount billing system	\$ 469,400	\$ 469,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2. Nouveau système de gestion financière - New financial accounting system	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-
3. Remplacement des parcomètres - Replacement of parking meters	650,000	650,000	-	-	-	-
4. Logiciel de permis d'Aménagement Urbain - Urban Planning permit software	80,000	80,000	-	-	-	-
5. Écran antibruit - Sound barrier	253,100	506,200	253,100	506,200	-	-
6. Remplacement du système de communication radio ECOM - Replacement of the radio communication system ECOM	354,300	354,300	-	-	-	-
7. Nouveau départ HQ, câble 15 Kv et 5 Kv, disjoncteurs sous-station St-Antoine et travaux civils - New start HQ, cable 15 Kv and 5 Kv, switchgear for St-Antoine substation and engineering	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-
Total projets spéciaux non récurrents - Non-recurring special projects	\$ 1,906,800	\$ 2,159,900	\$ 5,253,100	\$ 5,506,200	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Total	\$ 10,677,600	\$ 12,244,200	\$ 15,085,350	\$ 16,953,100	\$ 9,253,300	\$ 10,640,200

FINANCEMENT - FINANCING

PAYG de la taxation	\$ 4,045,500	\$ 4,045,500	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
PAYG de l'excédent cumulé affecté - PAYG from appropriated accumulated surplus	1,407,200	1,407,200	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
PAYG (projets spéciaux) de l'excédent affecté - PAYG (special projects) from appropriated surplus	1,906,800	1,906,800	TBD	TBD	-	-
PAYG recouvrables MTQ - recoverable MTQ	80,000	80,000	-	-	-	-
Subventions anticipées (temporairement PAYG de l'excédent affecté) - Anticipated grants (PAYG temporarily from appropriated surplus)	-	402,400	-	733,950	-	253,100
TOTAL PAYG	\$ 7,439,500	\$ 7,841,900	\$ -	\$ 733,950	\$ -	\$ 253,100
Subventions (Programme de la taxe sur l'essence) - Grants (Gas tax program) ⁽²⁾	-	1,164,200	-	1,133,800	-	1,133,800
Endettement net - Net indebtedness - 2015 LBL	3,006,900	3,006,900	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Endettement net - Net indebtedness - 2014 LBL	231,200	231,200	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 10,677,600	\$ 12,244,200	\$ 15,085,350	\$ 16,953,100	\$ 9,253,300	\$ 10,640,200

Notes:

(1) Budgetnet = Budget brut moins subventions, si applicable.

Net budget = Gross budget less grants, if applicable.

(2) Revenus de transfert de subventions; une dette sera émise pour la portion provinciale.

Transfer payment grants; a debt will be issued for the provincial portion.

Police Report

Heater, other tools stolen from Dorchester construction site

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

By MICHAEL MOORE

A group of thieves reportedly stole a haul of industrial-grade construction equipment from a deserted Dorchester Blvd. renovation project in the middle of the night between December 1 and 2. The suspects forced their way through the garage

door to enter an office building, which was undergoing “major renovations,” said Station 12 constable Stephan Laperrière.

Once inside, the suspects took a large, industrial-strength rental heater, an electrical generator and a battery charger, tak-

ing the time to disconnect all three items from their respective power sources before fleeing the site.

There are no leads or descriptions of the suspects reported to police, according to Laperrière.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



AVIS PUBLIC

**MODIFICATIONS DEVANT ÊTRE EFFECTUÉES
PAR L'ÉVALUATEUR AU RÔLE D'ÉVALUATION FONCIÈRE
2014-2015-2016**

2^e EXERCICE FINANCIER

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné par la soussignée, greffière de la Ville de Westmount, de ce qui suit :

Le rôle d'évaluation foncière qui s'appliquera pour le 2^e exercice financier du rôle triennal d'évaluation foncière de 2014-2015-2016 a été déposé au bureau du greffe et toute personne intéressée peut en prendre connaissance pendant nos heures d'ouvertures. Le rôle est également disponible pour consultation sur internet à l'adresse suivante : <http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/evalweb>

Toute personne au nom de laquelle est ou était inscrit au rôle un bien visé par une modification au rôle d'évaluation foncière de 2014-2015-2016 peut déposer une demande de révision administrative prévue à la section I du chapitre X de la *Loi sur la fiscalité municipale* (RLRQ, chapitre F-2.1) au motif que l'évaluateur n'a pas effectué une modification qu'il aurait dû y apporter en vertu de l'article 174 de ladite loi.

Pour être recevable, une demande de révision administrative doit remplir les conditions suivantes :

- i) Être déposée au cours de l'exercice financier pendant lequel survient un événement justifiant une modification du rôle en vertu de la loi, ou au cours de l'exercice suivant, si l'évaluateur n'effectue pas cette modification ;
- ii) Être faite au moyen du formulaire prescrit à cette fin et disponible dans les lieux de dépôt mentionnés ci-dessous ainsi qu'à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount ;
- iii) Être accompagnée du montant d'argent déterminé par le *Règlement sur les tarifs de l'agglomération de Montréal* pour l'unité d'évaluation visée, ou, si transmise par courrier recommandé, être accompagnée d'un chèque visé ou d'un mandat-poste à l'ordre de la Ville de Montréal ;
- iv) Être déposée en personne, du lundi au vendredi, entre 9 h et 12 h ou entre 13 h et 16 h auprès de la Direction de l'évaluation foncière de la Ville de Montréal (DEFVM) à l'une des adresses suivantes :

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bureau 600
Montréal (Québec) H2M 1M2

Division Est
7101, rue Jean-Talon Est,
bureau 1110
Anjou (Québec) H1M 3N7

Division Ouest
1868, boulevard Des Sources,
bureau 500
Pointe-Claire (Québec) H9R 5R2

ou être envoyée par courrier recommandé à : **Division Centre, 255, boul. Crémazie Est, bureau 600, Montréal (Québec) H2M 1M2**

or be sent by registered mail to: **Division Centre, 255 Crémazie Boulevard Est, bureau 600, Montréal (Québec) H2M 1M2**

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 17 décembre 2014.

GIVEN at Westmount, Québec, this 17th day of December 2014.

Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza
Greffière de la Ville / City Clerk

www.westmount.org

Station 12, cont'd. from p. 1

compared to 602 in 2013. A drop of 52 per cent came in those issued for moving violations, which typically bring higher fines and generate more revenue for the city than those given out for parking infractions.

Special holiday prevention

As for crime during November whose figures are still to be tabulated, "It's quite quiet right now," Bastien said. "We've noticed a drop recently." Special attention is being given to residential areas at this time of year to prevent break-ins when many houses are vacant over the holidays.

With the approach of the holidays, he said, "we're asking residents to find ways to give their home a lived-in appearance." Leave lights on and arrange for family members or friends to alternate their location. "When you have good neighbours they can help by parking a car in the driveway, removing accumulated mail and

shovelling snow."

Citizen priorities

The station's goals for 2014 have generally been met, Bastien said. These focused on the traffic concerns that residents had expressed in police consultations (see story January 14, p. 5). Traffic will likely continue to be one of the priorities in the action plan for 2015, he said. "It will always be a major concern."

The issue of homelessness, however, is another priority expected to be addressed in the coming year following its impact on south-eastern Westmount following the closure in July of Cabot Square for refurbishment, he said.

The issue of "co-habitation" of the homeless with local residents is not unique to Westmount and Station 12, he explained. "It's pretty much the same concern everywhere downtown in districts 12, 21 (Ville Marie) and 22 (the Gay Village). Each of us polling residents pretty much came up with the same priorities: street safety and

alleys."

The issue is being worked on in conjunction with other affected districts, he said.

Station loses its sergeant-detective

With the retirement October 21 of Sergeant-Detective Stéfán Bisson, a 27-year veteran police officer, Station 12 has been left without an investigator and there are no plans to replace him "for now," Bastien explained. "We're trying to see how we could work with fewer investigators."

As a result, all investigations formerly handled at the local level are now being undertaken at the Guy St. operations centre for the south region, as they once were.

Bisson, who came to the station 10 years ago and was known as a hard worker, was reported to have been still working on his cases throughout his last day.

Westmount crime samplings 2014, monthly average for quarter

Type of crime	Aug	Sept	Oct	Average for quarter ('14)	Average 2013 for quarter ('13)
Break-and-enter	9	3	10	7.3	4.7
Robbery	1	0	0	0.3	2.0
Theft from vehicles	14	11	6	10.3	9.3
Theft of vehicles	2	0	0	0.7	1.3
Graffiti	4	9	12	7.6	10.0

Tickets issued by police in Westmount, parking and moving violations

	2014	2013	% chg
August	108	170	-36.5
September	133	206	-35.4
October	129	226	-42.9
Total	370	602	-38.5

Public security: Parked cars can pose problem for sidewalk plows

A city sidewalk plow was unable to pass a car parked too close to the curb outside 38 Church Hill December 4, Public Security officials said. When the machine was unable to back up the steep hill, public safety officers began tracking down the

owner of the car who, in the meantime, arrived at the scene and moved it.

Twenty minutes earlier at 8:24 am, a sidewalk plow working on Montrose near Aberdeen hooked the passenger side mirror of a parked car. The plastic portion was

damaged but the mirror remained functional.

"When parking in the winter when ice can build up to the curb, it's advisable to walk around the car to ensure the wheels have not gone up over the sidewalk preventing access by the Bombardier [sidewalk plough]," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

"Remember to turn wheels toward the curb on a hill," he said. — LS

Noise meeting, cont'd. from p. 3

by the city. Westmount Mayor Peter Trent noted the city's acoustician measured the noise without the influence of other ambient noises like passing cars whereas SNC-Lavalin's expert, Jean-François Latour, included vehicular noise in his study as he compared noise in 2010 to the noises in mid-November.

Latour argued the hospital is compliant to city and provincial noise norms. In response, many residents, mostly from York St., debated the claim, saying they can't sleep at night because the noise penetrates windows and walls. The studies, many residents said, need to also be conducted from inside people's homes rather than outside.

Resident Jamie MacDougall asked SNC-Lavalin's noise expert if he used "the other instrument available to you to measure noise. That is the human ear. Did you hear the noise?"

Latour said that, yes, after visiting the area several times, he has heard the noise people are complaining about. That constant noise, explained resident Henry Mitekiewicz, is the problem. Rather than intermittent, he said, it "has literally not stopped since last November a year ago." He told hospital officials not to rely solely on decibel levels to draw conclusions.

Resident Wanda Potrykus described the situation as a "living hell."

Citing the December 8 meeting as an opportunity to hear what GISM has done to mitigate the problem, Trent reminded residents that this past summer, the city sent GISM and the MUHC an official letter, demanding something be done about the noise or legal action would be taken. He said, at this point, the threat of legal intervention is suspended with hopes that negotiations, discussions and GISM's interventions will solve the problem outside of the courts.

As those discussions continue, he said, noise study reports and other information would be available on the city's website.

Redfern, cont'd. from p. 19

development.

Neither Golfman nor Les Condominiums Redfern Inc. responded to requests for comment.

A representative of Millowitz Hodes Bergeron, the notary named as a *mis en cause* in the case, said the firm had no comment.

Legal counsel for Les Condominiums Redfern Inc., Sternthal Katznelson Montigny, did not respond to requests from the *Independent*.

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Jerusalem documentary premieres at cocktail eve



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On October 21, a special evening honouring the life of former Westmounter **Jake Eberts** was held at the IMAX Theatre. The Westmount-based Montreal Chapter of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU) and the Eberts family held a special screening of the documentary *Jerusalem 3D*, of which Eberts was executive producer.

He also helped create many Academy Award-winning films, including *Chariots of Fire*, *Gandhi* and *Dances with Wolves*.

Two of Eberts' three children, **Lindsay** and **David**, a local res, welcomed guests. Jake's widow, Fiona, passed away recently.

David Eberts, attending with his wife **Maria Toumanova** presented a reel of his father's work, moderated by **Anne Lagacé Dowson**. Guest of honour was **Ziv Nevo Kulman**, consul general of Israel in Montreal. Present were **Hal Hannaford**, headmaster of Selwyn House, and **Minna Shulman**, its dean of students, as well as Westmounters **Jeff Baikowitz** and his wife **Camila Velandia**, **Mary Gallery**, **Robert Raich**, **Howard Stotland**, **Rachel** and **Steven Kramer**, **Irene** and **Stephen Lipper**, **Evelyn** and **Raphael Schachter** and **Robyn** and **Ari Brojde**, president of the Montreal Chapter CFHU.

Also on hand for the event was *Jerusalem* writer-director, Montreal native **Daniel Ferguson**, who had previously collaborated with Eberts on the documentary *Journey to Mecca*. He explained that making *Jerusalem* in the IMAX 3D format was a challenge. The movie was five years in the making, with crews of up to 80 artists and techni-



From left: David Eberts, Daniel Ferguson and Ziv Nevo Kulman.



From left: Ari and Robyn Brojde, Rachel and Steven Kramer.



From left: Jeff Baikowitz, Camila Velandia and Maria Toumanova.



Anne Lagacé Dowson



Matthew Price-Gallagher

cians from all over the world. In addition, the aerial views of the ancient city were "a daunting task, but deemed absolutely necessary by Jake."

Jerusalem is a not-for-profit film financed through tax-deductible donations. Proceeds from the film fund a variety of projects in Jerusalem, through the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The film plays at the Montreal Science Centre until Saturday, December 20.

Sewer debris leads to noise complaint

Overnight work on Kensington Ave. was allowed to continue briefly despite a noise complaint at 1:08 am December 5, Public Security officials said. A contractor working for the city was found inspecting the sewer with a camera. It was considered an emergency regarding an accumulation of debris and the contractor was about to leave.

Budget, cont'd. from p. 1

2015 including Hydro Westmount upgrading. This counts on the city receiving grants of \$1.5 million to lower the cost. The work would be funded by \$7.4 million in pay-as-you-go allocations from the operating budget along with appropriations from surplus and borrowing through loan by-laws.

"Total capital works spending, net of grants, is up by \$1 million or slightly more than 10 percent," when the lower QST rebate is factored in, Drury explained.

"We are making a really strong statement with regard to infrastructure - roads and parks," said Mayor Peter Trent. The city is increasing annually the amount of capital works spending to be funded by the operating budget through pay-as-you-go, he explained.

Carbon monoxide detector activated

An alarm system that could not be deactivated December 5 at a house on Anwoth Rd. was traced to a carbon monoxide detector, Public Security officials said. Officers were called at 8:54 am to assist the resident in tracking down the source. The detector, dated 1996, was finally discovered hidden behind furniture. Firefighters were called to check out the safety of the home and found all in order except for "abnormal" electrical pressure of which Hydro Westmount was aware.

"It's always advisable to have up-to-date detectors," said Public Security director Greg McBain though the reason why the detector had activated was not reported.

In the coming year, he said, the city plans to introduce a capital assets management plan to provide a long-term vision for playing "catch-up" on deteriorating infrastructure.

Reaction to the budget presentation came from only one citizen among some 10 or more attending the meeting. John Fretz of Sherbrooke St. asked what the allocation of \$250,000 earmarked for "sound barrier" covered in the capital works budget.

Trent said that was only a "best guess" at what might be needed to be spent on the project though nothing has been approved.

Of the city's \$101 million of spending in the operating budget, \$51.3 million will go to the Montreal agglomeration council to pay for island-wide services and another \$900,000 to the Montreal Metropolitan Community for regional services.

The remainder includes \$33.3 million for the delivery of local services such as Public Works and Public Security along with such items as debt service and financing costs of \$7.3 million, pension fund costs of \$3.7 million and \$5 million in pay-as-you go capital works funding excluding the Hydro Westmount portion.

Budget highlights

In balancing the budget, the city is counting on collecting \$83 million from general property taxation, which is \$2.4 million more than 2014.

The loss of \$880,000 in revenue from the changes in provincial funding consists of \$638,000 in transfer payments and anticipated increases in operating expenses

Bat retrieved from living room

Public safety officers were called to a house on Hallowell December 6 for a bat on a wall, Public Security officials said. On arrival, officers found the bat hanging from a wall in the living room and reported "carefully removing it" and relocating it to a dark place in an abandoned property.

Tabagie Westmount Square

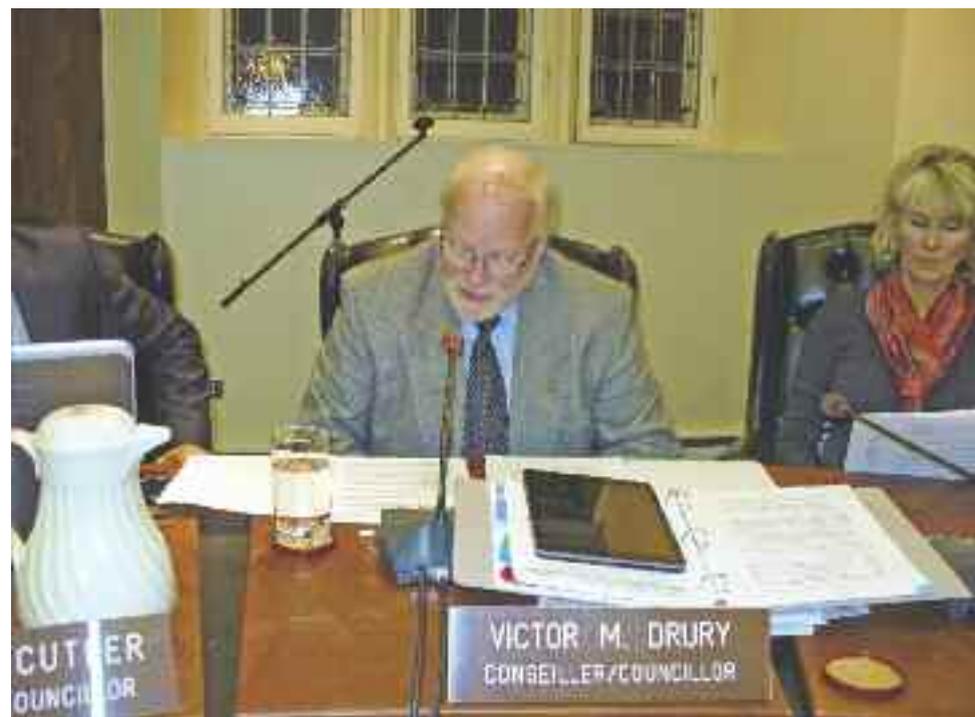
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Councillor Victor Drury reads the budget speech December 15 as Finance commissioner.

by \$130,000 and capital works spending \$117,000 resulting from the reduction in QST rebate.

"In order to shelter the Westmount taxpayer from this downloading, the city will finance the entire amount in 2015 using accumulated surplus rather than increasing taxes," Drury stated. "The city assumes a permanent fiscal pact with the government will relieve the city of such obligations beyond 2015."

In the operating budget, almost \$4 million more has been allocated to Public Works over 2014. This is spread across all areas including a jump in the price of road salt. Public Works in the city's largest department.

The overall 2-percent tax hike meets the council's guidelines given to the administration of limiting tax increases for local services to the rate of inflation plus-1 percent, Drury said.

Hurtubise acquires new hats



Benoit Hurtubise, director of Hydro Westmount, was appointed by city council December 15 to two new additional roles. These were "acting substitute director general" (along with Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier who is the substitute DG) and "interim director of Public Works" in the event of an absence by director Marianne Zalzal.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

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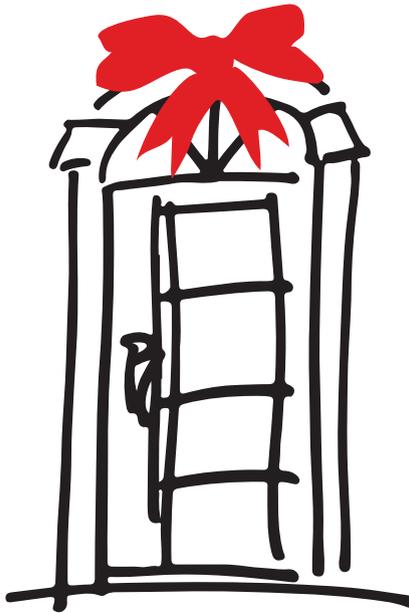


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