

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 8 No. 1c

We are Westmount

January 21, 2014

## Michel-Garcia pitches on TV, second Westmount company this year

## McBain to head Public Security, succeeds current chief Sedgwick



Westmounter Gil Michel-Garcia, right, who co-founded his company with business partner Mari Toyoda, centre, and wife Arabella Decker (not pictured), will be pitching his Japanese salad dressing company on a venture capital TV show Wednesday, January 22 at 8 pm. The appearance was taped in April but he could not divulge the results beforehand. See paper archive for more information.

Photo courtesy of A. Decker / CBC.



Greg McBain, right, is congratulated by Mayor Peter Trent, left, and Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security, on his appointment January 13 to head the municipal force as of March 31. See story, p. 7.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney.

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## Machete confiscated as 'chaotic' street fight spills into Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A "chaotic" street fight involving about 20 people outside the old Forum January 12 spilled into Westmount about 3:20 am where the escape of three suspects was foiled by public safety officers until arrival of police, Public Security officials said.

Following the trio west along St. Catherine, officers observed one of them remove a machete from under a carpet in front of

4014 St. Catherine just west of Atwater and then put it in the trunk of a parked Volkswagen near Wood, which the patrol officers boxed in until the arrival of police.

### Weapon seized

The three were reported released at the scene by police though the weapon was confiscated. Other members of the group were arrested.

The Public Security pa- *continued on p. 14*

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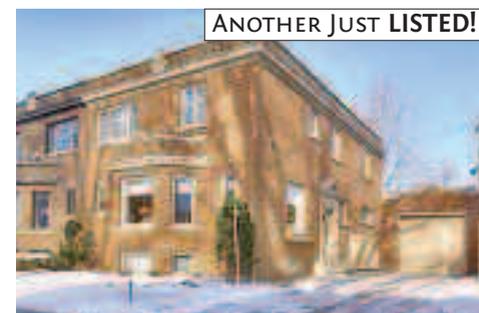
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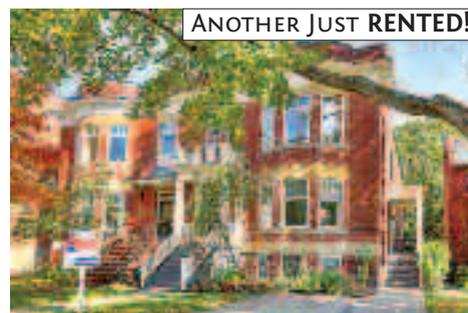
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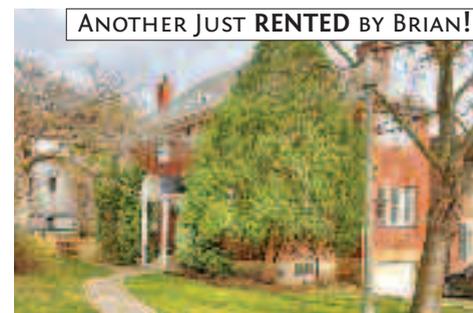
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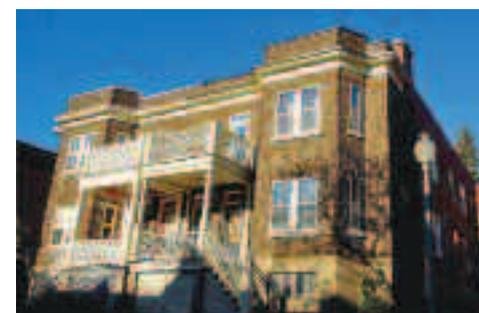
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Teacher: 'Talented' and 'incredibly humble'

# Westmount High's Wiltshire wins Victor Phillips award

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

On January 25 Leo Wiltshire, a grade 11 student at Westmount High School, will not only play "Come Back to Sorrento" on a piano at the Black Theatre Workshop's Annual Vision Celebration Gala, he'll receive the Victor Phillips Award.

The \$1,000 award, sponsored by TD, is presented to a black youth under the age of 20 who is enrolled in an academic program and who has achieved excellence in the performing arts. Candidates must be residents of Montreal.

"Black Theatre Workshop is proud to present Mr. Leo Wiltshire with the Victor Phillips Award as he is an excellent student and dedicated musician," said Laura Hilderley, marketing director for the Black Theatre Workshop. "It is so important to recognize the incredible accomplishments of young people in our community and encourage them in their artistic and academic pursuits."

"We give this award to someone interested in pursuing a career in the arts," said Hilderley, noting that the grant helps black youth further their pursuit of an artistic career.

The award is in honour of Victor Phillips, considered the father of black theatre in Montreal. During three decades promoting black theatre in Montreal, Phillips placed "paramount emphasis on the youth in our community," Hilderley said, and spent much of his time working with young artists.

"I'm glad I won the award," said Wiltshire, 17. "People say to me 'Good job, you won \$1,000, I'm sure you can find something to do with that.'" When he found out, Wiltshire said he felt "very happy" he won the award but "it was not an overwhelming sensation at the time."

### Encourages others

He urges other black youth to apply for the grant. "People should apply for this grant. I kept telling myself whoever wins this, they'll be someone who deserves this."

Wiltshire plays both trumpet and piano, and has been involved with the McGill Conservatory of Music. He's performed



Photo courtesy of the Black Theatre Workshop

both classical and jazz solos with the Lachine Concert Band.

"My drama teacher, Mr. (Sean) Garrety, told me about it," Wiltshire said. He asked Garrety, an English-language arts and theatre teacher at Westmount High, and his private music instructor, Edward "Ted" West, to write letters on his behalf.

West has introduced Wiltshire to "various genres of musical styles" – everything from waltz, blues, jazz and Dixieland to classical and baroque pieces, to big band and military band music, and even traditional Québécois music, Wiltshire said.

In his letter, Garrety described Wiltshire as "a very dedicated student who goes above and beyond what is expected of him and forces his peers to do the same when acting with him."

Garrety wrote that in grade 9 Wiltshire was both an actor and director for a school performance of Anton Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal*, playing the father "with ease and confidence." Wiltshire will play Walter in a school performance of *A Raisin*

*in the Sun* this year, Garrety wrote. "If he is anything like he was last year in the school play *The Crucible*, where he would *ad lib* from time to time in character in order to make up for the other actors who were skipping their lines of dialogue, it's going to be epic," Garrety said.

### Humble

"Even though Leo is a talented writer, musician and actor, he is incredibly humble," Garrety wrote, pointing out that in grade 7, when the improv coach made a mistake of taking on too many students for the Canadian Improv Games and realized this 10 minutes before the show, Wiltshire stepped forward to be cut. "I asked him later why he had volunteered and he just said that no one was willing to do it, so he did, even though he really wanted to participate," Garrety wrote in the letter.

Wiltshire said he plans to study liberal arts at John Abbott College. He's participating in a national Poetry in Voice competition for high school students across Canada and CEGEP students in Quebec. "My experience in poetry recital is close to nil," Wiltshire said. "Despite this, I'm very excited for this new challenge."

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**Superior to grit, beet juice****Salt deemed best option so far for de-icing city's hills: Trent**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The use of salt is deemed to be the best method for de-icing Westmount streets given the number of hills that must be kept open, Mayor Peter Trent told the city council meeting January 13.

Over the years the city has experimented with other means that proved less effective, he told Westmount resident Jack Locke, who questioned the ecological im-

pact of salt. These included a beet juice product to use with salt and abrasives such as grit, which clogged sewers.

"The problem is safety," Trent explained. He said the city had been trying for years to reduce its consumption of salt. He wasn't sure, however, that the amount used by Westmount made much impact on the St. Lawrence River, where it likely ends up.

Westmount topography notwithstanding, Trent said he could not understand why so much salt had been used to de-ice the Champlain Bridge over the years, which has led to its deterioration and need for replacement estimated in the \$5-billion range. In this case, surely another means could have been found.

City director general Duncan Campbell said that new "more intelligent" technologies now allow for more effective distribution of salt than in the past. These include



Prince Albert Ave. on January 17, one of Westmount's many hills. Photo: Independent.

is now mixed with calcium chloride. The salt trucks are also equipped with special spreaders.

In fact, not since December 1983 and 1984 had the city used as much salt (3,300 tonnes) as last month, Public Works director Marianne Zalzal had told the *Independent* before the council meeting (see story January 14, p. 4). This was due to the freezing rain and mixed precipitation that fell in the latter half of the month.

Public Works cleaned the streets well and relatively quickly during the December storms, said Councillor Patrick Martin, Public Works commissioner. "I want to congratulate the city workers doing a remarkable job during the holidays."

Martin also emphasized the need to salt hills for emergency vehicles and school buses.



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# Westmount victorious in Cape Ann / Sal Grasso Tournament



The Westmount Wings are introduced at the start of the tournament.



5-year-old Ian Kirstein, a member of the Westmount Termites, was the first to hit the ice for the opening ceremony.



The Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament took place at the Westmount arena January 17 to 19. It was the first major hockey event at the new facility and welcomed guests from Cape Ann, located just north of Boston. The match-up has taken place most years since 1987. Twenty-two teams, including four girls' teams, took to the ice.

"This is such an exciting weekend for everyone. We all had so much fun," said Kristin Michel, the Cape Ann tournament coordinator.

The tournament ended with a real cliff hanger at the Bantam level. With the score Cape Ann 4, Westmount 3, time ran out just as a Westmount player swept down

the ice and sent a shot at goal. It hit the cross bar, accompanied by huge screams from the crowd.

The final tally for the tournament was Westmount 34, Cape Ann 28.

The two communities are already planning the rematch for next November.

Above photo, the puck strikes the ice at the ceremonial start of the tournament at 5:30 pm, January 17. From left: Dave Lapointe, assistant director of Westmount Sports and Recreation; Nicholas Pothier, Westmount Wings Peeewe A; Duncan Campbell, Westmount's director general; Mayor Peter Trent; Josh Vorias, Cape Ann Peeewe 1; city councillor Victor Drury and Mike Deegan, Westmount's director of Sports and Recreation.

Above right photo, Mayor Peter Trent presents the tournament trophy to a group of enthusiastic hockey players.

Photos: Ralph Thompson.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NO SMOKE, NO STEAM

We are writing to correct the allegation in Mr. Chin's letter ("Unhealthy centre," January 14, p. 6) that the cloud emanating from the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) is smoke.

It is, in fact, water vapour (not steam) and is a by-product of the cooling system of the WRC. This system is one of the important aspects of the LEED management of the WRC where the heating and cooling

of the entire facility, including the pool, are achieved through recycling of the energy exhausted from the ice-making equipment.

DUNCAN E. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR  
GENERAL - CITY OF WESTMOUNT

### DOG RUN HISTORY

The question is where exactly the phoenix of the former dog run will arise.

As many residents in the southwest sector have dogs, the former site along the embankment of the old rink wall, on what is referred to as the "peninsula," was convenient and accessible. Yes, there were complaints about barking, but noise reduction measures such as a border of evergreens or a lattice framework were never implemented.

In 2012, when Pomerleau began excavating, the administration considered an interim dog run in Westmount Park, in the meadow facing the comfort station or the area where summertime theatre is held. Many park users viewed this as invasive, and the administration responded by leaving the dog run in its old location. In the winter of 2013, snow removal from the construction site swamped the border, followed by huge mounds of earth that obliterated the dog run.

Heedless of the outcry against incursion into the park, and without consultation or a survey of area residents, the

administration hired Fauteux et associés to reconfigure and relocate the dog run to the old shuffle-board site beside the huge oaks that border the lagoon, a site treasured as a quiet refuge.

This ill-begotten idea was hastily abandoned in the run-up to the election, but after completion of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), a mini Maginot Line of dirt mounds appeared on the west side of the path bisecting the peninsula. The message from the administration is that a

dog run should be located as far as possible away from the WRC's swimming pool, because of noise and smell and the unsightliness of dogs running around doing their "business."

During the shuffleboard debacle, the *Westmount Independent* published letters against the shuffleboard site and many favoured returning to the peninsula. The time has come for a well-conceived plan for a dog run.

JOHN FRETZ, SHERBROOKE ST.

## Pro shop lease approved, food concession on the way

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Users of the new arena will soon have the services of a pro shop following the city council's approval January 13 of a proposal from Michel Legault to rent the space for \$442 per month. A second offer of \$500 from another person was withdrawn before the city's decision.

The shop is expected to open February 1 on a five-year lease, according to city director general Duncan Campbell. The area is 26 square meters.

Notices for proposals to operate a food concession will follow shortly, he said. These specifications are more complex.

The council resolution calls for the

shop to be open during the week and weekend. It is to provide services that include skate sharpening, minor repairs and equipment maintenance, rental of skates and other equipment. The operator may also sell basic diverse sporting equipment as well as city of Westmount and NHL products.

In the summer, he'll also supply aquatic gear, added Councillor Rosalind Davis, Sports and Recreation commissioner.

Legault, who is from LaSalle, is known to Sports and Recreation personnel as someone who is very involved in the hockey scene, including Westmount, whose inter-city teams play in the same league as LaSalle.

## Phase 1: providing electronic tools City paves the way for online permits system

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Preliminary steps are under way by the city on a long journey to adopt an online process for building and renovation projects.

The Urban Planning priority was outlined by Councillor Theodora Samiotis at the city council meeting January 13 when Maureen Kiely, vice-president of the Westmount Municipal Association, asked what was being done to make the process "easier and more transparent."

The need to simplify the issuance of permits became a topic during the municipal election campaign last fall and is a priority for 2014, Samiotis acknowledged. As a result, she planned to meet January 15 with Urban Planning personnel and a service provider, one of several being in-

terviewed.

Currently, the paper-based Westmount process is subject to longer delays than in many municipalities that already provide online services to residents applying for permits, submitting plans and tracking their progress online.

"Even though our houses may date from the 19th century, it doesn't mean our technology has to stay ..... there," Samiotis told the *continued on p. 18*

### Correction

In 2014, the city expects to pay 1.1 per cent more than last year's \$50.3 million to the agglomeration council for island-wide expenses. A story last week referred to \$50.3 million as the new 2014 figure. The *Independent* regrets the error.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill (on maternity leave)

CHIEF REPORTER: Lauren Sweeney

#### LETTERS & COMMENTS:

*We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.*

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Water vapour rises from the arena January 17. The view is looking north toward Westmount Park United Church.

Photo: Independent.

# McBain to succeed Sedgwick as head of Public Security

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Assistant Public Security director Greg McBain was appointed by city council January 13 to take over command of the municipal force March 31 with the title of director of Public Safety.

The nomination of McBain, 41, was undertaken to “ensure a seamless succession” on the retirement of director David Sedgwick on that date, stated Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security, in moving the council resolution.

McBain, who started with the force as a parks ranger in 1992 and was its first bike path patroller, became second-in-

command in February 2011 just after the appointment of Sedgwick. Together, they have steered the department since then.

“Sedgwick has been a tremendous leader,” Cutler said in recognizing both officers at the council meeting in the brief presence of several members of the on-duty shift. “He has developed great relations with the police department,” he added. The meeting was also attended by local Station 12 police commander Daniel Gervais.

The naming of McBain at this time will allow for a transition period, Cutler said. It is also consistent with the city’s career planning strategy “which allows it to fill job vacancies by way of internal promotion.”

“The aim is to continue the service to citizens while moving forward to update our programs to meet the future needs of community,” McBain told the *Independent*. “We’re in very good shape with strong core of officers.”

McBain will not only lead the Public Security Unit officers (permanent and auxiliary part-timers) and parking inspectors, but also other components of the department of Public Safety, which include parking permits and dispatching.

McBain, who grew up on a farm in St. Gabriel de Valcartier north of Quebec City, is the father of two boys and a resident of Pointe Claire, where he coaches at two levels of hockey and also volunteers as a convener/director in the Hockey West Island organization.

He began his career working summers with the city while completing police technology at John Abbott College. He also played professional hockey in northern Italy. He was cited by city council in 2000 for outstanding response to a number of challenging Westmount incidents.

# Driver injures shoulder in car accident

Urgences Santé was called to an accident January 8 at 38 Belvedere Rd. where one of two drivers complained of pain to the shoulder, Public Security officials said. He refused transport to hospital, however. The street was blocked as other emergency vehicles responded from police and fire departments.

The injured man, who was driving a Mercedes, was a Westmount resident. The driver of a Ford pick-up lived in Pierrefonds. The accident was initially reported by Public Works at 3:35 pm.

# Man taken to hospital after slipping on ice

A patroller came across a man who slipped on an icy sidewalk at the northwest corner of Dorchester and Atwater January 11 at 5:48 am, Public Security officials said. Urgences Santé was summoned and took the victim to the Montreal General Hospital suffering a possible fracture to the foot or ankle. He was identified as a 44-year-old resident of St. Leonard.

# Church door found ajar at 1:58 am

The basement door to St. Matthias’ Church was found “completely” ajar January 12, Public Security officials report. It was noticed at 1:58 am by a patroller, who called for police. The interior was checked out and no one found inside. A message was left for church personnel but when the door could not be locked, patrollers were reported to have made frequent passing checks to ensure it had not been blown open again.

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# Burst pipes flood house, send water flowing down mountain

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Burst pipes at a house at 55 Belvedere Rd. were found January 10 to have flooded the main floor and basement of the home whose back overlooks Côte de Neiges Rd., Public Security officials said. Water from the house was noticed flowing down the side of the mountain by Public Works personnel at the city worksite below.

The owner, who was reported to have been absent from the house for some time, was contacted through neighbours and arrived at the scene. Officers entered with firefighters who shut off the water and electricity.

The water was believed to have been running for "quite some time," officers said. Icicles hung from the kitchen counter and other interior areas were frozen. A plumber was reported to be en route when officers departed an hour later.

"It's very important when leaving a house unattended in the winter to have someone check it out every day and to register with our SPA (special passing attention) program," said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

Under this program, patrollers check out the exterior of unattended houses a couple of times a day, he said. They look for newspapers or parcels left visible and signs of break-in or other issue such as a water leak. Homeowners can register by calling Public Security at 514.989.5222.

## City pays out \$9,000 to departing councillors

Westmount's three departing councillors received a combined total of \$8,930 in December. The allocation was paid December 12, according to city director general Duncan Campbell.

As a result, Kathleen Duncan, who was defeated after two terms (8 years) in office, received \$4,427. Gary Ikeman and Tim Price, who decided not to seek re-election after one term, received \$2,256 each.

The amounts do not appear on the city's cheque list for December since they are treated as other payroll items subject to withholding taxes.

*See paper archive.*

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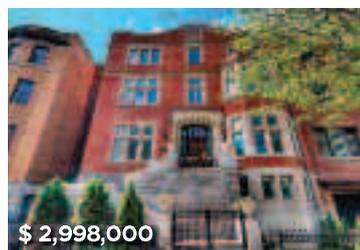
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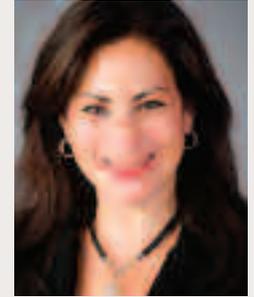


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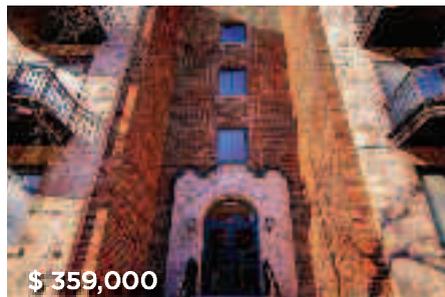
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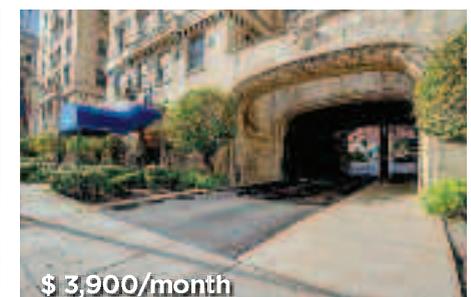
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# December sales: another non-month



## Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in December 2013. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

The second "non-month" in 2013 - after August - has brought Westmount real estate to a screeching halt, marking the slowest year since 1994 in Westmount real estate history.

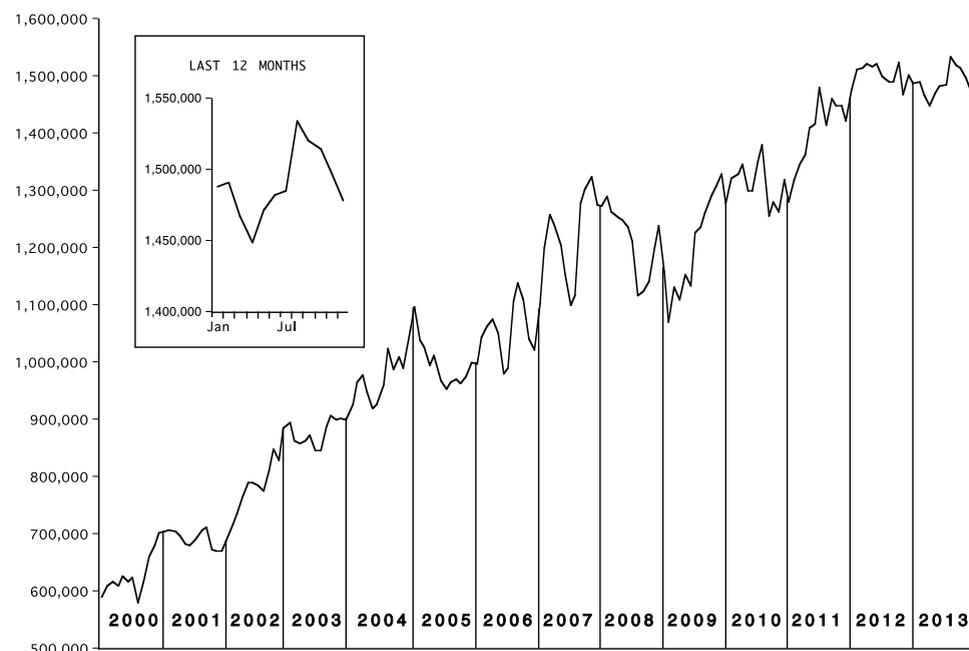
Only three sales were posted by agents as having taken place in December, slightly better than two in August, but it certainly speaks to the worried atmosphere as the Quebec and Canadian economies sputter leading into 2014. Prices ranged from \$1,000,000 to \$2,800,000 and mark-ups (over the 2011 valuation) from 13 to 90 percent, but of course the statistics don't mean much with such a small sample. Still, the high price of the three says there is hope for those whose houses are worth \$2 million and more; two of the three sales had been on the market five months or more, while the third was snapped up in seven days. So there are buyers out there, though they are being very careful with their money.

For the year 2013, the total of 135 sales (yet to be confirmed) is the second-lowest annual volume of one- and two-family transactions since we began keeping records in 1986 (though much better than the 97 sales reported in 1994, leading up to the second referendum on separation). The average price of last year's sales was way down from 2012, dropping to \$1,382,420 from \$1,489,423 a year earlier, but in fact the average mark-up over valuation was 0.3 percent higher, at 125.7 percent last year, so it could be said that the "typical" Westmount house price stayed just about even. The point, of course, is that only 15 sales over \$2 million were reported last year compared with 24 in 2012, and that brought the average price down significantly.

Condominium sales suffered badly in December, too, and only one co-op flat on St. Antoine St. sold in the month. Volume for the year dropped to 32 condos compared to 40 in 2012; mark-ups were up very slightly but the average price dipped to \$697,728 from \$711,439 the year previous. Co-ops held their own with 25 sales compared to 23 in 2012.

For adjacent-Westmount areas, mark-ups were down in every district, most no-

## Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month from January 2000 to December 2013 based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

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tably in the Square Mile where the average mark-up over valuation in nine single-family sales dropped to 18 percent compared with 72 percent in six sales in 2012.

That last statistic was heavily influenced by one sale at almost triple the tax value, but in fact there were no mark-ups

## Fire extinguished in portable loo

A small fire was put out January 12 in a "port-a-potty" toilet at the comfort station in King George Park, Public Security officials said. It was extinguished by a caller who reported the incident at 4:01 pm, stating he had seen three possible suspects.

Officers questioned a group of four at Belmont Crescent but all denied responsibility.

less than 30 percent above valuation, so obviously the interest in downtown single-family homes dropped drastically in the past year.

There are hopes the spring market will revive interest in Westmount properties, but keep your fingers crossed.

## Strathcona couple locked out

Residents locked out of their house on Strathcona January 13 were brought to the Public Security headquarters on Stanton St. until a locksmith was finally able to open the door, officials said.

Patrollers had initially tried to no avail to find a way to help the couple gain access at 6:08 pm. They eventually returned home at 7:05 pm.

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## Toys for tots



The second RE/MAX Toys for Tots campaign took place starting December 20 when a newspaper article publicized the appeal of Sun Youth (whole staff are pictured above) for toys aimed at children aged 10 to 14. According to organizer Tania Kalecheff, "with the wholesale price discount from the son-in-law of one of the [RE/MAX] brokers, we were able to purchase a bunch of toys in addition to the ones collected from the three offices and deliver them just in time for Xmas." Kalecheff hopes to have the event again next year so it can eventually be called the "Annual Toys for Tots" campaign.

Photo courtesy of T. Kalecheff

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garage, appliances included, Pool, gym, doorman, golf simulator

\$2,990/month

#### 2700 Rufus-Rockhead #231

Fully furnished 2 bedrooms  
pool, gym, doorman, garage

\$2,950/month

#### 4321 St-Jacques #102

3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms  
garage, appliances included

\$2,100/month

#### 1 McGill #303

2 bedrooms 1 bathroom  
gym, doorman, garage, appliances

\$2,700/month

#### Riva Uno (1160 Ch. Du Golf)

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pool, gym, garage, lockers

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**  
 Author Elaine Kalman Naves gives an illustrated talk about her book *Portrait of a Scandal: The Abortion Trial of Robert Notman*. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27**  
 City budget meeting, city hall. 8 pm.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29**  
 Lion in the Streets by Judith Thompson featuring the third-year Dawson professional theatre students. Tickets: \$12. Dawson's Theatre, 2000 Atwater Ave. 8 pm. Also at 8 pm January 30 to February 1, and February 6 to 8. Matinées at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, January 29, Friday, January 31, and Thursday, February 6.

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**Machete, cont'd. from p. 1**

trollers had come upon the large group already engaged in the fight on Atwater between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, said assistant director Greg McBain. He described the incident as "chaotic," with disturbances spreading west along St. Catherine St.

When police arrived, Public Security confined their efforts to Westmount, following three of the suspects west.

**Two machetes?**

It was later discovered that the fight had originated at a club in the old Forum when a man brandished a machete. It was not known whether or not this weapon may have been hidden under the carpet outside number 4014 in the initial confusion and subsequently retrieved.

## Affectionate Galina and Jackie



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Lecompte at the shelter Au Répit de la Montagne on her email at anoukle-compteremax@sympatico.ca or on her cellular at 514.234.2668. You can also find out more about the rescue on their website [www.aurepitolamontagne.com](http://www.aurepitolamontagne.com).

### Needed: pet stuff

If you have any items you would like to donate to the shelter (not forgetting cat litter, pet food or old blankets), please contact the rescue at the contact information above and they will come by at your convenience. I recently gave a number of unused items to the shelter and they are now being used by the pets. It seems the most wanted of all was a large brown rubber ball, the size of a soccer ball, which the dogs are now playing with merrily in the snow.

Your neighbour, LYSANNE



**Charles Pearo**

Ph.D.

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## Poochy – blind, but beautiful



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Helen Keller said that “the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.”

Poochy, a blind but loving little eight-year-old Yorkie, takes exactly the same approach to life, and is hoping to find a family that feels the same way, and that will be able to “see” him for the very special dog that he is. Poochy is just another unfortunate dog who did nothing wrong but found himself homeless and at the shelter. He was given up by an owner who couldn't afford to take him to the veterinarian to look after his health issues.

However, even with advanced cataracts, and much like the famous Helen Keller, Poochy doesn't let his disabilities get him down! He prefers to think of himself as “handi-capable” and manages quite well both inside and outside of the house despite only being able to see shadows and light.

He does occasionally lose his balance but he doesn't worry about it too much and just keeps on going about his life, doing his regular doggy activities. Some of his favorite pastimes include playing with people and other dogs and going for walks, which he loves to do! A real love bug, Poochy is affectionate and obedient, waiting politely by the door to let you know he needs to do his business and happily curling up to sleep after, preferably with another animal!

Poochy is a super sweet and easy dog, and would do well in pretty much any home. He's good with both cats and dogs – but a home with older or dog-savvy kids is probably best considering his limited vision.

If you are interested in adopting Poochy, please contact Marilyn at [adoption.spca@gmail.com](mailto:adoption.spca@gmail.com).

## Water work gums up morning traffic

A water works project in the middle of The Boulevard January 9 caused traffic congestion at 7:40 am making it difficult for students arriving at The Study, Public Security officials said.

Officers assisted the school crossing guard in helping the children cross safely.

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# Beer Review: Vices & Versa – Bistro du Terroir

6631 St. Lawrence Blvd. (corner Beaubien) – December 7, 2013

**Greg Dunning, The Connoisseur;** beer drinker/brewer/hunter

**Ideal beer:** One that is made by people who care more about the beer than the money

**Favourite beer:** Too many to mention

**David Price, The Philistine;** beer drinker (Greg says “thinker,” but he is being too generous)

**Ideal beer:** Stronger-than-average lager, even it's commercial Canadian beer

**Favourite beer:** Harp

For this review, we were accompanied by our incorruptible “Euro-sidekicks,” Mila of Prague and Willem of Amsterdam, and their three bierfriends. Serving exclusively Quebec microbrew on tap since 2004, this two-room bar (and superb terrace in the summer), as of our arrival at 7 pm, was at full capacity with an animated, young professional crowd. Vices & Versa serves 35 different drafts (a remarkable number for a Montreal pub), rotating its selection substantially every two weeks.

**THE PHILISTINE:** My first choice was Kellerbier (5.5%) and according to brewer Les Trois Mousquetaires (Brossard), an unfiltered Pilsner. I chose this beer moments before my beer guide, Greg, came over and told me he had elected to open with it as well; an auspicious start. And I liked it. It was a bit fruity, but not overpowering, as many American pale ales (APAs) are. I would describe this one as halfway to that level of flavour.

**THE CONNOISEUR:** “Keller,” in Ger-

man means cellar or from the basement, where the beer has been slowly maturing in a barrel. A lager is fermented longer, more slowly and at a lower temperature than an ale, with a bottom-fermenting yeast. The effect is that the bubbles in the beer are smaller, making it taste smoother. Les Trois Mousquetaires' Kellerbier is a superb lager with noticeable hop assertiveness, giving it that fruitiness that my colleague refers to, which is a good example of a German-style lager, but not a Pilsner (Thank you, Mila.)

**THE PHILISTINE:** My next was Claire (5%) a blonde lager by L'Alchimiste (Joliette). It had a bit of a metallic taste, which I am finding more and more widespread. Like the Kellerbier, though, this beer was at half the flavour strength that most “metallic” beers have. I liked it despite the metallic-ness (metal-icity?).

**THE CONNOISEUR:** I also stayed in the lager family of L'Alchimiste with Bock de Joliette (6.1%). It had a fuller body feel (like an ale) than the classic clean, light, and malty flavour a bock should have and I think that this came from the fact that L'Alchimiste is a practitioner of “big beer” India pale ales (IPAs). This bock had too much alcohol and too much American hop taste, and simply tasted like half an ale, instead of a nice bock. Not recommended.

**THE PHILISTINE:** My next beer was Wescot IPA (7%) by Micro-Brasserie



Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg.

Broadway (Shawinigan), a cask ale. I did not like this beer. It was too skunky, which I know ale lovers love, but I don't.

**THE CONNOISEUR:** The whole beercrew actually sampled the only cask beer on the menu at this moment in our quest. After being bombarded by commercially bottled beer for decades, “going back” to unfiltered, room-temperature, practically non-carbonated English draught is a big ask for most, especially for David, my “lagerhead” colleague.

But for the beer geek, a cask is an opportunity to imagine for a moment that he is sharing a pint with Ned Stark in *Game of Thrones*.

The lone Englishman in our group loved it because he had acquired a taste for it before being dispatched to the colonies. One of its main advantages is that you can consume a lot of them because they do not

fill you up, but at a ridiculous 7%, our representative of the Queen wisely had just one.

**THE PHILISTINE:** My last beer of the evening was my favourite, Rousse, again by Les Trois Mousquetaires. This beer did not try to impress with a strong taste. It is – Greg tells me – a classic, true to its roots, Vienna-style lager, which is copper-ruby red in the glass and sweet and smooth. It was just good and that was the best part about it.

**THE CONNOISEUR:** My final beverage was Big Ben Porter (5.5%) from Brasseurs de Monde (St. Hyacinthe). I was expecting a sweeter version of Guinness, since I wanted to end the evening with a dessert-type beer, and porter usually pairs nicely with cheese, pie or chocolate. Since I was already in training for the upcoming Christmas feast, I skipped the dessert, but was blasted with too much bitterness, too much dark chocolate, and not enough sweetness. It's much better from the bottle.

## Recommendation?

**THE PHILISTINE:** I would recommend Vices & Versa. The food was above average. Most of us enjoyed our bison burgers with nice, thick crispy French fries and some other standard pub fare. The service was fast and informed, if a bit unfriendly. Get there early if you're a big group.

**THE CONNOISEUR:** There has never been a better time to explore Quebec microbrews, with about 20 new ones coming out each month. But it's a little wild out there with unseasoned, *nouveaux* brewers challenging classic beer styles with unusual spices, enormous hop additions, and oddly timed releases, making almost every beer taste like an IPA. There was no harvest ale, Oktoberfest or Christmas/winter ale. Bummer. Maybe I was just in between seasons and should have gone back two weeks later. Things that make you go hmmm...

## Small garbage fire extinguished

A Public Security patroller spotted smoke coming from a garbage can January 2 at 4:55 pm at the northeast corner of Greene and St. Catherine. It was initially extinguished using water from a 1.5-liter water bottle, but subsequently “doused” by firefighters. Public Works was called to salt the area.

## Contractor ticketed \$1,250 on Lansdowne

A contractor was ticketed \$1,250 for occupying the city street without permission January 4 while working at 250 Lansdowne, Public Security officials report.

The next day, officers returned to the same building just north of St. Catherine for a water leak and shut off the water.



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## Victoria village parking at stake: councillors Referendum registry process moves into high gear on medical offices

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Results of the first phase of the city's rezoning efforts to limit the size and number of medical offices in the Victoria village area will be known soon with the close of petitions January 22 requesting that referendum registers be held on the issue.

The purpose of the zoning change is to prevent an influx of medical offices and the increased traffic and parking constraints they would be expected to generate (see story December 3, 2013, p. 1).

By press time January 20, only three individual residents had gone to city hall to request a register and no organized petitions had been received, said city clerk Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza. The two options are being made possible so that individuals who may not know whether or not a petition is circulating in their zone may sign up at city hall.

They have until 4:30 pm Wednesday to do so, at which time the city clerk's office will start validating names.

While it is not known how long this eligibility check of signatories will take, she said, "at least we have an up-to-date electoral list to refer to."

The rezoning applies to six "concerned" zones – all commercial ones stretching along Sherbrooke from the west city limits to Grosvenor and south on Victoria.

But 10 "contiguous" residential zones that touch the concerned zones, are also involved in the complex referendum process. Two of these, in particular, are very large. One stretches north almost to Côte St. Antoine from Sherbrooke from west of Claremont to Grosvenor and contains 475 dwelling units. Another, along both sides of Sherbrooke (Grosvenor to Kitchener), has 460.

Already, a number of owners and/or

the representatives of commercial buildings are known to be opposing the by-law by way of the register process.

On the other hand, residents of contiguous zones who are in favour of the by-law may choose for strategic reasons to apply to open a register in their zone in the hope that they will have the opportunity to vote in the process at a later stage.

As a result, letters dated January 9 explaining the process were sent out by district councillors Rosalind Davis and Christina Smith. Some 1,200 were printed and delivered.

"The feedback has been hugely supportive," Smith said last week. "It's a parking issue. I'm pleased the city is being proactive. Down the road, we hope to find a solution to parking."

Davis said she believed that independent merchants, their customers and residents should have a right to park on the street near the shops or their homes rather than having these spaces overtaken by an influx of medical offices in the Victoria village.

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## Two Mountains hunt celebrates 70 years



From left, Westmounters Nicolas Matossian and Peter Gillett, Richard Glaude, huntsman François Seguin, Claude Robert and Westmounter Eric Lenczner, who is the master of the hunt.

Photo courtesy of Linda Lenczner.

The Lake of Two Mountains Hunt marked its 70th anniversary with a dinner dance on January 11 at the Atwater Club.

About 50 members and friends attended.

Westmounters present were Eric and Linda Lenczner, Peter and Paula Gillett,

Alwyn Gillett and Willie Tretiak, Christopher and Eve Gillett, Michael and Barbara Galletti, Barbara Baudinet, and Martha and Nicolas Matossian.

The hunt is based at Forever Green Stables in Glen Robertson, Ontario, just over the border with Quebec.

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# Dunn's, Aislin and silent auction at Atwater Library



## Social Notes

from Westmount  
and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Many Westmounters lined up for the dripping delicious Dunn's smoked meat sandwiches at the Atwater Library's fun evening last November.

The event featured a silent auction of donated items including work from Westmount artists **Jennifer Hornyak** (a painting) and **Susan Pepler** (a floral print); beautiful pashmina scarves from **Reuben Abramowsky**; gift certificates from Toqué and Ferreira Café; and a toy train set from the library's past president, **Marshall Wansbrough**, which choo-chooed around a tiny track much to the amusement of guests. It sold for \$450.

Westmounters spotted included guests of honour **Constance and Laurence Pathy**; library president **Mary Rivard-David** (attending with her husband **Claude**); Westmount mayor **Peter Trent**; library board members **Lionel Blanshay** (there with his wife **Pat**); **Andrew Clark**, former mayor



Terry Mosher, aka Aislin (left), Constance and Laurence Pathy. Mary Rivard David, Michael Belmer, Lynn Verge and Lionel Blanshay.

Photos: Matthew Groot

**Karin Marks** and **Ellen Wallace** (there with her husband former councillor **David Laidley**); as well as library supporters, local res **Julie** and **Richard Pound** (chair of the library's capital campaign), **Guy Lachance**, **Judith Kashul** and **James Coulton**, **Michael Harrison**, **Brian Webb**, **Lorraine Briscoe**, **Patricia Quill**, **Mary Anne Ferguson**, **Reford MacDougall**, **Barbara** and **Trevor Bishop**, **Colin Adair**, **Robert Johnson**, **Joan** and **Alex Paterson**, **Gael Eakin** and **Desmond Morton**, **Linda** and **Peter Leus**, **John Ayleen**, **Dora Koop**, **Anne** and **Derek Drummond**, library historian **Susan McGuire**, Westmount city councillors **Theodora Samiotis** and **Rosalind Davis**, with her husband **Tom**; **Chris Pickwood**, event committee member **Nikola Reford**; **James Brodeur**, **Diana** and **George Hendy**, and **John Archer**, whose digital photo was donated along with 16 Aislin cartoons to raise funds for the library, which has no endowment fund and receives only \$47,000 a year in core funding from governments.

Also seen were library vice-president **Bob Bechard**; event chair **Michael Belmer** (there with his wife **Lynn**); **David Angus**; **John Rae**; **Paul K.** and **Patricia Marchand**; **Janet** and **John Blachford**; **Susan Briscoe**; **Camilla Leigh**; **Stephanie Blanshay**; **Steve Shanahan**, Montreal councillor for Peter-McGill district; **Anne Sutherland** from *The Gazette*; and **Dennis Trudeau**, the event's emcee.

The evening raised over \$81,000.

## Permits, cont'd. from p. 6

*Independent* on her way into the meeting January 15 with a service provider that supplies some 400 municipalities across Quebec with online urban planning services.

She later said the first phase of such a project would be to provide the Urban Planning department with the electronic tools "that would enable them to respond to residents more quickly."

This starting phase and the training of

## Pathy recognized with Order of Canada

For "her contributions to the vitality of classical dance and music in Quebec, through her leadership and generosity," Westmounter **Constance Pathy** was awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General **David Johnston** on December 30.

personnel in the new tools will be the emphasis for this year, she said.

Although Westmount is "late in the game" to implement online services, "today's newer technology should provide a better product."

The city has been working toward streamlining the issuing of permits in other ways, she pointed out. This includes the implementation of a fast-tracking process for small, so-called routine, renovation or restoration projects (see June 14, 2011, p. 1).



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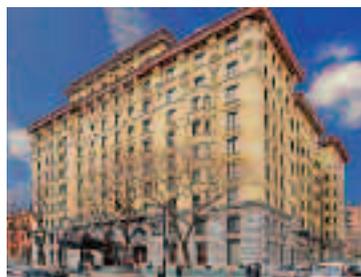
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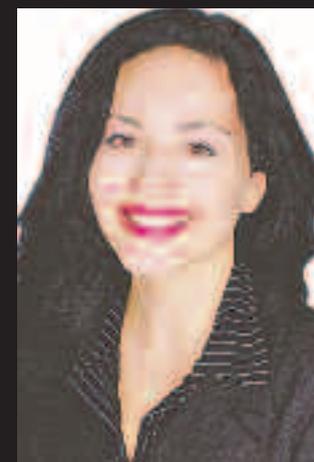
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