By Laureen Sweeney

City freezes commercial-to-residential conversions

The city of Westmount has imposed a 60-day freeze on the conversion of commercial buildings to residential use in the southwest and southeast commercial sectors. This would include condos.

The freeze took effect March 17 when city council at its mid-month meeting gave notice of its intent to rezone some 22 commercial zones “to ensure the prevailing commercial use” in those areas.

“This will allow us time to look at the best way to approach the subject given the complexities and differences involved in these different zones,” Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the Independent.

The move comes as a first step in dealing with concerns over a growing trend toward the conversion of office buildings into condos.

It aims to preserve a “sustainable mix” of residential and commercial occupancies needed to provide a “vibrant community” while preventing erosion of the commercial tax base, she said.

The commercial tax rate is generally four times the residential one.

The freeze covers entire buildings in those zones as well as individual occupancies within buildings.

It follows two recent conversions of major office buildings to condo developments (215 Redfern and 175 Metcalfe) though neither is located in frozen zones.

More conversion proposals are expected, however, Samiotis explained.

continued on p. 9

22 zones impacted to preserve tax base, ‘viability’

By Laureen Sweeney

Hockey rental slots now booking, pool scheduling to follow

Sports sign-up open for most spring, summer programs

As the new pool is set to open in early June, Westmounters will have to wait another month to sign up for swimming programs even though registration started this week for spring and other summer activities.

“We’ve already hired our pool managers and instructors as well as 80 percent of our lifeguards,” Dave Lapointe, assistant director, Sports and Recreation, said last week.

The number of pool personnel and types of swimming courses offered will remain unchanged from the past, but schedules have yet to be completed before swimming registration opens April 23.

“This year is a learning curve,” Lapointe explained. “We’re running with what we’re comfortable with. We have a few systems to test and things to hook up at the pool, and away we go.”

Among the new sports and leisure programs now open for registration are Ultimate continued on p. 8

Westmounter Sarah Blattler, left, holds a leashed Molly-Jade, her eight-month-old golden retriever (in back), while Quito, a two-and-half-year-old Bernese mountain dog (in front) is held by its owner, Lisa Vilder, also of Westmount. The two dogs were blissfully play fighting and rolling about on a snow-covered Westmount city hall lawn on March 20. The two canines didn’t seem at all bothered that it was a snowy first day of spring.

Spring fever

Letters, p. 6  Social Notes, p. 26
9 Lives, p. 22  David Sedgwick retires, p.10

Don’t Miss It: Wednesday, March 26 – WMA, Indie host Meet the Candidates for provincial election, see Comin’ Up for details, p. 20
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“International Exposure with Local Expertise”
Unsweet message for Roslyn students

As part of the Nutrition Month that is being observed at EMSB schools in March, noted chemistry expert Dr. Joe Schwarz, right, and certified meditation teacher Lynne Goldberg from Westmount, centre, spoke to grades 5 and 6 students at Westmount’s Roslyn School on March 20 about nutrition. Schwarz, who is well-known for his defence of methodical investigation while denouncing pseudo-science, and Goldberg, who among other things is a whole plant-based diet educator, agreed on one thing especially: there is far too much sugar in the average person’s diet and its intake should be reduced drastically.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Second Vendôme access among election requests

A second entrance to the Vendôme Metro station was among special needs announced March 19 by Montreal mayor Denis Coderre at a press conference calling for more big city powers, Westmount mayor Peter Trent said.

Coderre was accompanied by Trent as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, Quebec City mayor Régis Lebeaume and St. Julie mayor Suzanne Roy, representing the Union of Quebec Municipalities.

“Vendôme desperately needs a second entrance and I was very pleased when Coderre mentioned it,” Trent explained.

He said he had been talking with Coderre about the issue that has been raised at many Westmount city council meetings as being an important way to ease congestion around the area when the super-hospital opens next year.

Since it would require provincial funding, the answer so far has been that no financing is available at least for a couple of years.

Di Battista, Ghowil advance to dictée finals

The Study student Erica Di Battista and Kirolos Ghowil of the École Internationale have advanced to the international final of the 23rd annual Paul Gérin-Lajoie dictée, which will take place May 11 in Montreal among 100 finalists.

They are two of 16 who will advance from the Montreal regional final, which took place March 15 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The theme of this year’s spelling bee is “water, a resource to protect and share.”

Seven hundred grade 5 and 6 students will take part in the 30 regional finals around North America and 178,088 students participated in prior rounds.

The Rotary Club of Westmount is ready to pickup reusable household items for our sale. Rotary helps others.

We need useful, quality, working items: antiques, small furniture, paintings, lamps, housewares, toys, etc...

Funds raised will go to community & international projects as we have been doing for more than 80 years. Help Rotary help others.

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Music wars of Westmount

Loud jazz heard at 4:42 am

Public safety officers answering a complaint for music at 6 Park Place at 4:42 am March 12 heard “loud jazz” coming from an apartment, Public Security officials said. A verbal warning was given to a man stating he was housesitting for his mother.

Second Cup speakers on overnight on Sherbrooke

A patroller heard music coming from outside speakers at the Second Cup coffee shop on Sherbrooke at Claremont on March 14 at 1:28 am, Public Security officials said. Since the establishment had closed at 10 pm, it was impossible to turn off the music. The day staff was spoken to later and were reported to have stated they would alert evening personnel to what had happened.

Melville music goes off, starts back again

A noisy party at an apartment at 235 Melville was toned down just before public safety officers responded to the complaint March 15 at 11:32 pm, Public Security officials said. Loud voices could still be heard and it was not long before the music started up again. The resident was told about the complaint and the music was turned off. A similar previous complaint had been logged but it was a year ago and officers exercised their discretion and issued only a verbal warning.

All-night St. Antoine party ends in revenge music

A complaint about loud music March 16 at 3035 St. Antoine St. turned into a civil dispute within the apartment building, Public Security officials said. Officers were called to the building at 5:38 am and could hear loud music at the entrance. A tenant stated it was her first party and she was upset someone had complained. After leaving, officers were called back at 6:06 am when the music was turned back on, even louder. The host was reported to have said she did it just to get back at the complaining neighbour. She was told to turn off the music but no ticket was issued in what was described as “a civil dispute.”

Wajsman gets political at Rotary

Suburban editor Beryl Wajsman spoke to the Rotary Club of Westmount March 19. The club has a convention of not inviting political speakers, but Wajsman certainly broke from that tradition. He took on a number of issues, coming out swinging for secularism in the public space, against strict party discipline in the federal and provincial parliaments, and against Quebec’s over-weighting of rural ridings in the provincial legislature. He was particularly scathing of “ethnic” communities’ opposition to the Charter of Values, which he characterized as a trap designed to elicit reactions that could in turn be peddled to the Parti Québécois’ base. He also railed against the PQ, saying – among other things – that its goal under Marois is to increase economic dependency on the government, not decrease it.

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Remembering Richard Lord

Westmount lost one of its more beloved citizens last week (March 9) with the death of lifelong resident Richard Lord, 84.

Richard first became celebrated seven decades ago when, following his older brother Bobby, he shone as one of the Westmount High’s greatest football and hockey players ever.

Upon graduation, he was awarded a hockey scholarship by Michigan State University, the first black to be so honoured by an American college.

Returning to Westmount with a science degree, he became a familiar figure on the political scene, for years serving as president of the Young Men’s Liberal Association.

With his friendly, outgoing personality and multiple connections in the community, he seemed to be the ideal Liberal candidate to represent Westmount in the National Assembly. Instead, Kevin Drummond was chosen. Richard’s consolation prize was to the bench of the immigration court.

While in office in Quebec City, Drummond became one of the main factors for the growing disaffection of Montreal’s Liberal voters, due to his warm compliance with the Péquistes’ anti-English legislation. Upon graduation, he was awarded a scholarship by Michigan State University, the first black to be so honoured by an American college.

Meanwhile, Richard Lord, incapable of bitterness, busied himself helping have-not kids in Little Burgundy and with church activities. To hundreds of Westmounters, he remained almost to his dying day, the community’s unofficial ambassador of good will, elevating the spirits of scores of passers-by with his high-pitched “Hi,” accompanied by a radiant grin under his vintage straw hat. Even with his strength ebbing away, he managed to stay in circulation thanks to his attractive wife Carol who accompanied him everywhere.

Life may have let Richard down a few times but he was too positive and high spirited to stay down for the count.

Tim Burke, St. Catherine St.

Remembering Richard Lord (2)

I read the article by Marilynn Vanderstaay regarding her personal souvenir of Richard Lord (“The end of an era,” March 18, p. 8) and I would like to add my personal recognition of having known Mr. Lord.

Richard Lord was a founding board member of Coup de balai / Clean Sweepers, a non-profit service for the elderly. As a board member, he was always looking for how to partner with different organizations so that common goals and goods could be reached. His belief that common good is always the best way helped form the organization.

He did not have a car so often after our board meetings, I would offer to return him home or to his next appointment and en route he always had an anecdote to share in regards to a landmark, a building and at times the history of a Montreal family. His passing certainly marks an end to an era and I consider myself fortunate to have had the chance to cross paths with him.

Bruce Cameron, Directeur (Coup de balai inc.)
Earth Hour is coming

Together they have put together a wonderful evening of events and information booths that include everything from city farming to cargo bikes and stargazing! Bring an incandescent bulb and get a low-energy compact florescent compliments of Hydro Westmount. There will be musical entertainment, lots of fun activities, and food and beer for purchase. So please join us at Victoria Hall from 6 to 10 pm on Saturday, March 29.

Now it is your turn as a resident of Westmount to do your part for Earth Hour. Please reduce your use of electricity between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on March 29 – no laundry or dish washers, turn off lights and lower the thermostat. Hydro Westmount will measure and compare the electricity consumption during that hour.

Help us improve upon the count from last year!

Cynthia Lulham is the city councillor for District 7 and the commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

No CAQ candidate

Four candidates confirmed for provincial election

The Directeur général des élections du Québec confirmed March 24 that four candidates have registered to run in Westmount-St. Louis in the April 7 provincial election: Lisa Julie Cahn (Green), incumbent Jacques Chagnon (Liberal), Mélissa Desjardins (Québec solidaire) and Denise Laroche (Parti Québécois).

The nomination period ended the day before, so it is possible, the DGÉQ representative said, for other candidates to be verified in the days to come, after press time.

It was reported over the weekend that the CAQ’s would-be candidate in Westmount-St. Louis, François Carl-Labonté, was disqualified, along with two other CAQistes elsewhere in Quebec, for issues with his nomination signatures.
Frisbee/flying disc, Cycling and Street Smarts, Discover Art for young children and three toddlers’ programs. An On Camera workshop for adults will introduce the art of acting before the camera.

Also being offered for the first time is the use of one (the Molson) rink from May through August for general skating (also yet to be scheduled). Lunchtime use will be reserved for women’s, Old Timer and adult pick-up hockey.

Evening ice slots are now being rented out to local residents who want to put together their own hockey teams. Eleven of the 20 available slots have already been spoken for, at a cost of $300 plus tax a week for 17 weeks, Lapointe said.

Fitness moved to WRC

As well, most of the fitness classes will take place regularly for the first time in rooms at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) rather than Victoria Hall.

Plans have not been finalized for summer use of the second (Desmarais) rink, whose ice will be melted down at the end of April, allowing its floor to be used for indoor tennis and the summer camps on rainy days or as required.

“Again, the first year in the building is a learning lesson,” Lapointe said. A decision has already been made, however, not to offer ping pong as was available at one time at the old arena. Basketball, on the other hand, is “something we’ll look into.”

Program details are available in the program booklet delivered last week to all homes in time for registration for Westmount residents to receive guaranteed spaces where applicable from March 24 to April 2, at which point it will also be opened to non-residents.

While last summer’s weekly bus excursions proved very popular, Lapointe said, they substituted for the lack of a pool and won’t be offered this year. “They were very costly but we used the budget that had been in place for the pool.”

Hammering, sawing before hours costs $269

A ticket for $269 was issued to a contractor at 215 Redfern March 12 when a Public Security patroller heard hammering and sawing under way before the 7 am start-up time, Public Security officials said. Given a number of recent complaints for earlier-than-permitted starts, “we’re paying special attention to the site,” said assistant director Greg McBain. Shortly after the patroller had arrived at 6:39 am, a complaint was also received, he said. Workers inside could also be seen from the exterior, he said.

The Study is one of over 100 choirs from across Canada participating in the “Sing for St. Justine with Céline Dion” contest, which is a part of the St. Justine Foundation’s “Healing More Better” campaign.

According to the school’s press release, many Study families have personal relationships with St. Justine hospital.

The school’s grade 3, 4, and 5 choir, accompanied by a soloist and instrumentalists from the high school, chose to sing, “S’il suffisait d’aimer,” one of the four choices.

The virtual gallery (www.concours-sainte-justine.ca/en/entry/6147817) opened to the public on March 17 and closes on April 30. The public can make a $5 donation to the foundation by voting.

The winning choir will get the chance to sing with Céline Dion at a gala event in May.
Conversions, cont’d. from p. 1

“We have to look at what kind of mix is healthiest to ensure viability of the commercial sector, ... not creating a black-and-white situation, but finding the right formula,” she said.

Finding a way in 60 days

Exactly how the city plans to do this has yet to be decided by council, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier explained. “We have 60 days to come up with a bylaw.” After adoption of a draft version, public consultation and rezoning registers would likely follow.

The measure is part of the city’s revision of its planning program in 2014 as required every five years by provincial law.

It’s also the reverse situation of major zoning changes in the 1980s “when we were trying to protect the residential nature of the city,” recalled Mayor Peter Trent. At that time, residential use was extended to all commercial zones.

“Clearly the opposite trend is taking place with the building of condos. Now we have to adjust to the current situation.”

While the freeze applies to 22 commercial zones, there could be some exceptions particularly in an area such as Victoria village, where a mix of residential and commercial uses within buildings has been identified as a defining characteristic, Poirier said.

Since one solution may not fit all, she said, “some zones may be dropped completely” from those now frozen.

The current freeze applies to individual occupancies within a building as much as to the entire building itself, Poirier said. “It won’t stop a commercial tenant moving out and a new one moving in. But I wouldn’t issue an occupancy permit for a residential tenant wanting to move into a commercial space.”

Who’s covered by the freeze

How does the freeze apply to a developer who has already approached the city with a proposal in one of the frozen zones?

Poirier said it would depend on how far along the project was in the process; whether an actual application had been made or working drawings submitted. It could be a matter for lawyers to decide, she said.

The frozen zones, denoted with an asterisk (*) above, in Victoria village are along the commercial strip of Sherbrooke and south on Victoria to just north of St. Catherine as follows: C 5 -20-01; C 5 -20-02; C 5 -20-03; C 5 -20-04; C 5 -20-05 ; C 17-20-06.

In the southeast, they cover Greene Ave. from Sherbrooke to Dorchester and along de Maisonneuve, St. Catherine and Dorchester including the towers of Westmount Square, 1 Wood and Alexis Nihon.

These zones are designated C 5 -21-07; C 1-24-01; C 1-24-02; C 10-24-06; C 15-24-07; C 7-24-09; C 11-24-10; C 5-24-11; C 5-24-12; C 5-24-13; C 5-24-14; C 14-31-01; C 8-31-02; C 9-31-03; C 16-31-04 and R 6-24-08 (the Tupper parking lot).

A zoning map may be found on the city website at www.westmount.org/admin/sections/documents/map_zoning.pdf

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**Director retires after 28 years with Public Security**

**Sedgwick proud of community focus, shift back to ‘roots’**

**By Laureen Sweeney**

Taking Public Security back to its roots was the main objective set by David Sedgwick three years ago when he took over the helm of the municipal force as its first “home-grown” director.

Now as he turns 58 in May and retires after 28 years, he says he feels confident his mission has been successful and will be moved forward as his successor, assistant director Greg McBain (see January 21, p. 1).

**Main goal**

“My main goal was to get us back to serving residents and improving their quality of life rather than being as repressive as we had become,” he said last week.

In the last three years, the department has initiated a new community approach and programs such as the recent “Security and Aging,” he explains.

“Officers are now being encouraged to use discretion over ticketing, even when it comes to parking,” he said, adding “though some people might not think so. Yes, ticketing is important, but it shouldn’t be the main focus. Safety is our first concern.”

When possible, the department has started phoning holders of on-street parking permits the evening before snow operations on their street to prevent their cars being towed as well as speeding up the work, he said.

The scheduling of personnel has also been revamped to allocate patrol strength in a more cost-efficient manner and improve service to residents over the hours of greatest demand.

**Strayed from initial role**

Sedgwick said the unit had strayed from its initial community-oriented direction during a period of transition that followed the retirement of director Richard McEnroe in 2006 and many of the original core of public safety officers. A new director hired from the outside was not as tuned in to the community, Sedgwick explained.

“When I first started on the job in 1986,” he recalled, “it was extremely rare that we would give out a ticket for a by-law infraction. Graffiti was something you hardly ever saw. It was a big event when you came across something like ‘Bill 101’ on a stop sign. We also used to give tolerance to the parking of construction workers’ cars.”

But as the years progressed, more by-laws were enacted with the proliferation of construction sites, leaf blowers, heat pumps and air conditioners.

And citizens’ expectations of enforcement increased as they became more aware of noise by-laws, in particular, through the city website. “Our approach is trying to educate rather than ticketing automatically, especially on a first offence.”

Sedgwick’s shift in focus for Public Security is also synonymous with his appointment as the force’s first “home-grown” director.

Raised and schooled in Westmount, he lived 44 years on Prince Albert before moving to Nuns’ Island. As such, he has had his finger on the pulse of the community, playing hockey and coaching in the city’s house leagues for 27 years, and working various jobs as a student in the Public Works garages and parks, and even as dog catcher when the position existed.

He did a stint at Manoir Westmount and worked off and on at the former Gulf service station at Victoria and de Maisonneuve.

**Joined in tough times**

It was never in Sedgwick’s career plan to go into law enforcement. But when he obtained a BA from Concordia, “jobs were tough to get in the mid-‘80s. So when I saw an ad in the newspaper for a public safety officer, the qualifications seemed written for me.” Gender and height (in those days), and other specifics corresponded exactly. And he never left Public Security.

What are his post-retirement plans? “I’ll take some time off and then work at whatever comes up that interests me,” he replied. That could include anywhere else in the world if his wife, Yolanda, accepts global contracts in her field of computer security.

He also plans to learn Spanish so he can converse “without a translator” with her parents during their trips “home” to Colombia.

While Sedgwick retires officially May 1, his last day at the office will be April 3 before leaving on pre-retirement leave. And what he’ll miss most, he said, is the camaraderie of the officers, parking inspectors, dispatchers, office staff and other city workers.

“I will miss Dave’s leadership as a colleague,” said Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan. “He has been a great friend and teammate, and Westmount is losing a wonderful ambassador within the community.”
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Royal gifts for Novices

David Cristofaro, left, the new manager of RBC’s Westmount Square branch, visited Andrew Maislin of Westmount’s Sports and Recreation department to introduce himself and to bring gifts of water bottles and tuques to the boys of Westmount’s Novice A intercity hockey team. It is part of an initiative to celebrate the Royal Bank being in Westmount for 120 years. Below, the Novice As.

Verbal confrontation with taxi March 13

A taxi driver and a customer were engaged in a noisy verbal confrontation at 11:43 pm March 13 when friends of the customer were taking too long to leave the address, Public Security officials said. The heated exchange took place outside 4560 St. Catherine near Park Place when the client was described as “visibly intoxicated.” The cabbie complained he had been waiting 25 minutes. Officers told the driver to leave and suggested the client call another taxi when everyone was ready.
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INTRODUCING

EXQUISITE WATERFRONT | SENNEVILLE $1,650,000
4 acre waterfront estate with over 300 feet of waterfront. Fabulous sunsets, mountain views, prime and prestigious location. 2 homes on property, detached double garage, mature trees. MLS 2453753

Lisa Thorncroft* $14,945,1901

LAC DESMAIRES | MT-TREMBLANT $2,495,000+taxes
New luxurious contemporary home, completed before Summer 2014. 4 bedrooms, 4+1 bathrooms. Open concept on 6.17 acre wooded lot. Breathtaking views of Mont-Tremblant and the lake. Exclusive community. MLS 2229487

Raymond Dalbec** 819.425.4568

WESTMOUNT | METCALFE $5,995,000
Beautiful Manor where luxury & comfort blend seamlessly. Set on 20,532 sq. ft. lot, this architectural marvel will please the most discerning. Separate Garage/coach house. MLS 9306414

Maureen Brousseau* Jill Shpritzer** $14,935,4597 $14,691,0800

INTRODUCING

TOWN OF MOUNT-ROYAL $2,090,000
Exceptional Canadian architect, Fred David Lebensohn, conceived the plans for this exceptional 4 bedroom cottage located in the western sector of M.R.K, between the two best parks. Corner lot, 16,578 sq. ft. MLS 9368647

Ghislaine AделЯ* $14,731,6378

Le 1200 OUEST $745,000
The ultimate downtown location, walking distance to everything! Magnificent 2 bedroom corner condo, 1,200 sq. ft. + city view, balcony, indoor parking, 24/7 security, gym, pool. MLS 2780288

Phyllis A. Tellier** $14,924,4062

INTRODUCING

PLACE DU SOUVENIR | KIRKLAND $699,000
Beautiful bright 4 bedroom Grade B cottage across from Kuper Academy. Great location with easy access to highways, public transit and services. Family room, fireplace, double garage. MLS 1649028

Nayla Saleh* Karine Doche* $14,941,6244 $14,677,6244

WATERFRONT CONDO | DORVAL $545,000
Professionally designed sun-filled condo facing Lac St-Louis. Featuring two bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, large walk-in closets and 3 parking spaces just 15 minutes to downtown. MLS 1054624

Genevieve Bettinville* $14,975,2026

INTRODUCING

LAC BEAVEN | ARUNDEL $1,995,000
Amazing 1947 stone mansion built to stand the test of time. One of a kind waterfront property. Beautifully landscaped and the tennis court is just a stroll away. Approximately 10 acres and 260 meters of shoreline. MLS 23817408

Marsha Hanna** 819.425.0619

LAKE MASSEWIPPI | HALTEY $1,790,000
For sale is a 3 level, 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom waterfront home with a pool. MLS 9306424

Stéphane Cloutier* 819.578.7507

INTRODUCING

LAC DÉSEMAIRES | MT-TREMBLANT $2,495,000+taxes
New luxurious contemporary home, completed before Summer 2014. 4 bedrooms, 4+1 bathrooms. Open concept on 6.17 acre wooded lot. Breathtaking views of Mont-Tremblant and the lake. Exclusive community. MLS 2229487

Raymond Dalbec** 819.425.4568

INTRODUCING

TREMBLANT RESORT | LE REFUGE $1,695,000
Gorgeous property for sale & rent located in the Village du Golf Estates, on the Heritage "Le Gîte" golf course. This 1,900 sq ft. home features cathedral ceiling, 7 bedrooms, movie theatre, solarium, double garage, hot tub and more. MLS 935560

Jeffrey Hodes* 819.425.5878

INTRODUCING

WESTMOUNT | LANDSDOWNE RIDGE $3,495,000
Traditional home in a coveted location. Living rm w/working fireplace overlooks 3-tier stone garden surrounded by mature trees. This space opens to a private outdoor terrace and inground pool. Above-ground level includes the den, steam shower bathroom, poolroom, wet bar & sauna. 4 bdrms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 garages. MLS 9176470

Anne Ben-Ami (Madar)* $14,726,3037

INTRODUCING

DOWNTOWN $7,900,000
One-of-a-kind landmarked property in the heart of the Golden Square Mile. This vast property is located in what is arguably the busiest & most prestigious area of downtown Montreal. Composed of 2 buildings, the glorious former mansion and coach house, the development possibilities are endless. They don’t make them like this anymore.

Joseph Montanaro* $14,660,3050

SPECTACULAR VIEW | OLD MONTREAL $1,095,000
At the 7th floor of the Solano, this luxurious 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit offers floor-to-ceiling windows on the ever changing waterfront. Private balcony, 2-car garage. MLS 1907863

Anick Truong* $14,836,4062

LIALA | SULLIVAN $1,650,000
4 acre waterfront estate with over 300 feet of waterfront. Fabulous sunsets, mountain views, prime and prestigious location. 2 homes on property, detached double garage, mature trees. MLS 2453753

Lisa Thorncroft* $14,945,1901

LUCKY BAY | MACKENZIE $975,000
Charming home. Located in the heart of Golden Square Mile. Set distance to Victoria Village. Working fireplace, high ceilings and fantastic location! MLS 9368167

Janet Ben-Ami (Madar) $14,726,3037

INTRODUCING

Old-Montreal | Le Callière $685,000
3 bedroom apartment on two levels located in the historic building Le Callière, a prestigious address with concierge service. Skylight, brick wall, ample hotel wood beams, fireplace, private balcony, rooftop terrace. MLS 10549399

Diane Oliver** $14,893,9872

INTRODUCING

Cite du Havre | TROPICOPOLIS NORTH $599,000
Waterfront yet only minutes to city center. Beautiful bedroom + office, over 2,000 sq. ft. great views of lake and river, 1km from downtown. MLS 10549399

David Wilkes* $14,893,9872

REMARKABLE STONE FAÇADE HOME | LAVAL
Situated in a premier area of Terrebonne, a stunning house with unique features, including custom mosaics, 3 living rooms on ground floor, 6 fireplaces, 3 bedrooms with possibility of 2 more from mezzanine. MLS 935560

Yanick E. Sarrazin* $14,823,2133

WESTMOUNT | THE BOULEVARD $2
Scantily residence nestled in the mountains with spa. Beautifully renovated, it boasts 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, 2-car garage and much more! MLS 9346725

Jill Shpritzer** $14,935,4597

Taegscape photography by Doug Kowal

MINUTES TO EVERYTHING!

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Residence | Westmount | $1,998,000
- 6+1 bedroom residence provides a unique live-in classic and timeless luxury ideally located on quiet street, steps from noted schools, shops, and its grand residence is the ideal family home.

PMAN | $14,232.5932

Westmount | Summit Circle | $1,795,000
- Stunning contemporary 3-story triplex featuring 3 bedrooms, offers loads of light and a great lifestyle. 2 balconies plus a sun room with views. An oasis of tranquility at one of the highest points of Westmount. M.S. 9810804

Saul Ciccia | $14,941.6248

Westmount | Upper-Belmont | $1,349,000
- Beautiful semi-detached 3½ bedroom Tudor residence in sought after Upper Westmount location, with sunny, west-facing rear yard. An exceptional, quintessential Westmount residence. M.S. 3714087

Karen Karpman | $14,497.8218

Westmount | Dorchester | $995,000
- Turn of the century stone facade duplex offering beautiful architectural details. Ideally located close to all amenities. Steps to Greene Avenue. M.S. 36628769

Carlo Paolicci | $14,802.4004

Westmount | Grosvenor | $645,000
- This chic apartment Westmount is distinguished by its taste for refinement. While its smiling height gives as a sense of grandeur. M.S. 9760276

Pierre Brunet | $14,248.8032

National Realty Québec LK | Agency | ††Sotheby's International Realty Québec HR | Agency | ‡ Asking Price

**FOR SALE**

Residence | Westmount | $4,400,000
- Art of Montreal, in a city in full bloom, the Sir George Simpson combines a noble architectural style to the conveniences today's hectic and effervescent life. 218 square feet living space, 2 bedrooms, 2½ bathrooms. Gas fireplace, gas kitchen cook top, garages and 2 lockers. Exclusive

Sirard | $14,582.2810

**INTRODUCING**

Saturday & Sunday Showcase 12 pm to 5 pm

Oro Residences de Prestige
- Offers the best in urban living next to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Refined amenities such as rooftop lounge, gym and concierge. Showcase unit Le François | Corner unit with South-facing balcony, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, storage and garage. Visit our sales office at 160 Sherbrooke W.

John Di Pietro | $14,726.1400

Introducing

Domaine Jacques Villeneuve | $4,995,000
- Exclusive private estate with 25.95 acres, 2 private lakes, 100% of Lake Sisken & 59% of lac Laurier 1.7 km of shoreline on Rivière Souris, an energy independent log home by the lake. M.L. 10665881

Diane Oliver* & Sophie Le Guerrier* | $14,281.5552

WATERFRONT ESTATE | Ste-Anne-des-Lacs | $2,988,000
- Lac Marais’ impeccable property offers comfort, elegance and sophistication. Superior quality materials, professionally decorated, 5 bedrooms, 2 offices, manicured grounds, boat house, dock, breathtaking views and much more. M.L. 10802880

Herbert Ratsch* | 819.429.9019

MELANIE CLARKE* | 450.694.0678

Ville-Marie | Rue Berri | $1,595,000
- Located in one of the most vibrant location in Montreal, this imposing property will charm you with its elegance and old style character. M.L. 29503771

Frederic Benoit* | $14,583.9320

Villa-Marie | Rue Édouard | $1,585,000

Isabelle Perreault* | $14,266.2949

SPECTACULAR PROPERTY | St-Laurent | $998,000
- Large and sunny family residence featuring a great layout and room’s sized on multi levels. This property is completely renovated with the best materials. The house sits in a quiet and peaceful Crescent. The back yard is surrounded with Cedar trees for a heated pool and terraces. Great and rare opportunity! M.L. 10164264

Geraldine Libraty* | $14,962.5563

Notre-Dame-de-l’Île-Perrot | $2,350,000
- Magnificent residence at the water’s edge with panoramic views on the Saint-Laurent. Over 3,000 sq ft. perfectly designed by the builder Jean Ruel. Over 100 feet of frontage overlooking the water, a beautifully kept garden, high ceilings, lots of light M.L. 9247089

David Malka* | $14,814.3823

Altitude 2702 | Downtown | $1,449,000
- Situated on the 27th floor of Altitude, this condo offers one of the greatest view of the city. 3 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms, it has been designed with care and high end materials, it is available immediately for rental furnished at $1,000/week including linens and dishes. M.L. 9328492

Louise Latreille* | $14,577.2009

MAN | Hudson | $1,975,000
- Exclusive waterfront estate nestled on over 1,000 sq. ft. of land with a garden entrance, long driveway, a backyard with pond, pool, 2 gazebos and fire pit and navigable waterfront. M.L. 10334657

Cassandra Aurora* | $14,293.2277

INTRODUCING

Lake Archambault | St-Donat | $2,795,000
- Magnificent waterfront property, built in 2011, high quality and noble materials, 5 bedrooms, 3½ bathrooms, heated garages / 5 cars, cathedral ceiling, nearly 300 feet waterfront. Plot of nearly 15 acres. Less than 1km from Montreal. M.L. 10383805

Rachelle Demers* | $14,378.8630

**FOR SALE**

| Sutton | $853,000
- and crystal clear point. Set back from the road, this ingle storey and a half storey home features a cathedral ceiling, open floor plan, Southern exposure and detached garage.

Jean-Reneo | $450.577.0272

Lac Bouchette | Morin-Heights | $695,000
- Luxurious waterfront retreat on an exceptional site built with high-quality materials, abundant windows with open concept and spectacular views. Turn-Key. M.L. 28490228

Pierre Chapdelaine* | 819.429.1888

ST-FAUSTIN | $685,000
- Magnificent residence with 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms located on Mont Blanc and 10 minutes from Tremblant. M.L. 365342

Sophie Le Guerrier* | $14,655.0773

RIVERFRONT LOT | Ste-Adèle | $249,000
- Exceptional waterfront lot of 150,000 sq. ft. with 794 ft of shoreline on Rivière aux Mulets! Ideal location for private residence or townhouses. Many outdoor activities, and neighbor to golf and ski Chalets! M.L. 3662915

Penelope Vilagos** | $14,779.5122

OUTAOUIS | Family retreat | Montebello | $599,999
- Being in the countryside by the Montebello Golf Club is this unique home located in an enchanted surrounding. This home was recently fully renovated with style and taste. M.L. 10302234

Patrick Vaillant** | $14,774.6917

**UNIVERSAL COUNTRY SCENERY**

PARIS VANCOUR | West Covington | Victoria | Marbella | Knowlton

Real estate broker | Agency | ††Sotheby’s International Realty Québec HR | Agency | ‡ Asking Price

**WILLIAM TRENDBLANT | PARIS | VANCOUVER | WHISTLER | CAPE TOWN | VICTORIA | MARBELLA | KNOWLTON**
Aurora the Spectacular

By Pascale Delhaye, Guest Columnist

Dreams, we all have them. My first Arctic adventure brought me to Churchill, Manitoba in 2011 to see the polar bear. This January, I headed to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, yes, consciously in the middle of winter to the sub-Arctic, with hopes of witnessing the aurora borealis.

My cameras and I can't seem to get away from the cold. Aurora borealis, the northern lights, is Mother Nature’s ultimate light show, which results from the collision between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the Earth’s atmosphere.

This display is best viewed in Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, as it is non-coastal and situated under the aurora oval. The Territories are so vast that some of its national parks, alone, are larger than some European countries.

I was quite prepared for the – 40°C bone-chilling cold of Yellowknife, the limited daylight, and the blustery winds. I was, however, most concerned for my cameras and my bedtime. The aurora is a late-night-only display and peaks between 10 pm and 2 am.

I'm usually in bed by 10 pm, warm and cozy with a good book, but not in Yellowknife as 10 pm is Aurora Time. It's when you gear up in triple insulating layers of outdoor clothing; ready your cameras, tripod, extra batteries and head out for a few hours.

What was I thinking? These are teenage clubbing hours!

Napping in snow pants

The first night, I lined up my gear, military-style, by the door and caught a quick nap at 8:30 pm dressed in my snow pants. I awoke at 9:55 pm and quickly donned the rest of my prepared Arctic attire. Outside the lodge, the air was crackling with cold and heart-thumping expectation of Aurora. I repeated my newly created mantra to myself – “tripod, shutter release cable, filter-less, wide-angle, manual focus at infinity” with every cold breath, and waited. There was so much cloud cover, not even a star could be seen. Back in the lodge with my nose pressed to the cold window, I waited until 1:30 am with quick steps outside every 20 minutes.

It was the same scenario on the second night. I had travelled 3,200 km to only see cloud cover? How disappointing.

Remaining optimistic and patient, I dedicated myself to a third night in similar fashion. Having learned the first two nights, I kept my extra batteries under my clothes to keep them warm as if they were victims of hypothermia.

With great excitement, I finally spotted a star at 11:45 pm. That one lone star was the hope of clouds lifting. Within moments, a multitude of sparkling stars took over the night sky and I held my breath. Not just because the air was so cold that it hurt my lungs, but in anticipation of Aurora making an appearance.

Electricity in the air

There was electricity in the air, a buzz of tangible excitement, the same feeling you get at a concert just before your favourite performer steps out onto the stage.

Finally, there she was, shyly coming out from behind her curtain of clouds, Aurora the Spectacular. She made her first appearance in pale light green. She then lit up in fine, graceful form, brighter and stronger. She regaled us with encore after encore of dazzling colourful enchantment and magic, dancing and curving to applause.

Mouth agape, neck straining at the grandeur of Mother's Nature beautiful artwork and a frozen finger on my camera shutter release cable were all part of my initiation in seeing this enchanting celestial phenomenon.

Apart from the expected ooh's and ahh's, two young men were jumping up and down, clapping their hands, like giddy school girls. An elderly woman stood motionless craning her neck with a tear rolling down her frozen cheek.

Capturing Aurora has been my biggest photographic challenge, thus far. I will never look at a night sky the same way ever again. I didn’t just see Aurora. I was lucky to experience it.
My other adventures in Yellowknife included flying in a 1967 ski plane in the copilot seat, snowmobiling at 1:30 am over the famous NWT Ice Road with Aurora dancing overhead, ice-fishing and learning to make ice cream out of snow like the Dene natives.

Dreams, I will always have them. Will I aim for a warmer-weather scenario next time? Probably not – there is something about coming home with a partially frozen fingertip, and your face tingling from having been whipped by the cold to keep the memory of Aurora alive.

Pascale Delhaye is a Westmount resident and an avid amateur photographer. See more of her photos at www.pascaledelhaye.com and www.flickr.com/photos/108279603@N05/.

The aurora borealis.
HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séance du conseil reportée au mardi 8 avril
La séance ordinaire du conseil municipal, prévue pour le 7 avril, est reportée au mardi 8 avril à 20h en raison des élections générales au Québec.

Élections du 7 avril : se renseigner

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions - activités printemps et été

BIBLIOTHEQUE

Concours Littéraire McEntyre 2014

Juges bénévoles demandés pour évaluer les nombreux textes. SVP contacter Wendy Wayling, bibliothécaire pour enfants, wwayling@westmount.org/514 989-5357.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 2 avril à 10h15. Faites preuve de créativité lors de cet atelier où vous pourrez vous exprimer en vers dans une ambiance décontractée. Info : 514 989-5299.

Conférences culturelles : D’ Louis Touyz

Vente de livres du printemps des Amis de la bibliothèque

Récitation – Journée mondiale du livre
Le mercredi 23 avril à 18h, Salle Westmount. Afin de souligner la Journée mondiale du livre, la Bibliothèque invite les membres de ses clubs de lecture à une réception vin et fromages. Info : 514 989-5386.

Crêpes et prose

CITY HALL

City Council meeting postponed to April 8
Due to the Quebec General Election, the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 7 will be moved to Tuesday, April 8 at 8 p.m.

April 7 Election : where to find information
Voters may obtain information about the April 7th election at www.monvote.qc.ca, from social media sites and from the Returning Officer of the Westmount-Saint-Louis Riding, at 514 231-1754.

LIBRARY

2014 McEntyre Writing Competition
This year, we would like you to write about "A New Beginning"! Consult the McEntyre brochure at the Children’s Desk or at www.westlib.org.

Earth Hour 2014 : Turn off your Lights!
Saturday, March 29, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Eco-Fair event at Victoria Hall from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Information tables, presentations, stargazing with members of the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society, music with the Burton Street Singers and snacks on sale at the Café Clair de lune. Organized by the Westmount Healthy City Project. Info: 514 989-5226.

Film Screening: Forks Over Knives
Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m., Westmount Public Library. This documentary examines the profound claim that most, if not all, degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled or even reversed by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. Discussion with Dr. Kristine Koski of McGill University’s School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. Presented by the Public Library and the Healthy City Project. Info: 514 989-5284.

Side by Each : Bowser & Blue in concert
Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m, Victoria Hall. Fundraising event for the piano at Victoria Hall. The musical duo returns to its roots in Westmount with new songs and comedy about Montreal, Quebec, Canada, getting old, staying young. Opening act with David Pryde. Tickets $20 ($10 tax receipt). Cash bar. Info: 514 989-5226.
February sales: Waiting and watching

Mood of the Market
Andy Dodge, CRA

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in February 2014. 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 below offers a picture of these trends over time.

Most Westmount home buyers were sitting on their hands at the beginning of what should be the busy spring real estate market, a fact that makes it look like prices are plummeting, with some desperate sellers and no reasonable offers.

In February, buyers were anticipating a provincial election, which was finally called last week, so refused to commit themselves to a home price that could drastically change – one way or the other – in a very short time. Only seven sellers actually accepted offers to purchase, less than half the average volume for February and the lowest since February 1996, in the wake of the 1995 referendum. One sale was over $2 million – and we added another in that price range in late January – but in both cases they sold way under their municipal valuation (22- and 27-percent markdowns, respectively), which indicates the serious lack of demand for Westmount’s more prestigious houses.

The two-month volume of only 15 sales in Westmount mimics the gloomy market of early 2009, when the world economy was teetering on the brink of total collapse, but of course this time is much more local in nature, and probably will stay that way through March unless political poll results turn around significantly. Five of the February sales broke the $1-million level, the same number as in January, and in fact two were over $1.5 million. The lowest price last month was $848,000.

Eight condominium sales have been reported so far this year, including one in the yet-to-be-built 175 Metcalfe Ave. building, the other seven selling for just under their municipal valuation, so in fact the prices are doing better than the single-family homes. In the first three months last year only six condo sales were posted, so already the market is slightly improved. Only three more sales were negotiated in adjacent-Westmount districts, and in fact in eastern NDG the prices are almost five percent higher than municipal valuation, on average.

We have not noticed a rush to reduce asking prices: at last count 146 houses were listed for sale in Westmount, 65 of those (or 45 percent) asking more than $2 million, so we get the idea the sellers, like the buyers, are eager to find out what happens in the upcoming election. In January the average waiting time to sell was a stunning 279 days, coming down to 162 days in February with two that sold within 10 days.

So we, like the rest of the real estate world in Westmount, will be waiting and watching for the next month or so.

Average adjusted price of a ‘typical’ Westmount home by month from January 2001 to February 2014 based on accepted offer dates

Batshaw Children Needing Homes
Siblings Matthew and Anne need a permanent home with stimulation

A long-term foster home is being sought for three-year-old Matthew and his one-year-old sister Anne. The siblings are presently in an emergency foster home and are in need of a permanent one where they can be together. Matthew, coming from an unstructured home life (with lack of stimulation), is functioning below his age level, but has made some gains with stimulation, nurturing and is learning to follow basic routine. He is adorable with lots of energy. He eats and sleeps well.

One-year-old Anne is charming and bubbly. She has a history of under-stimulation and is struggling with developmental delays. She is not walking but has made some gains since placement. She is sitting up much better on her own, spins around on her tummy and tries to move her legs to crawl.

Anne is able to say a few words but babbles a lot. As a result, a referral has been made for speech therapy at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. She eats and sleeps well. Annie will require more stimulation to continue her gains.

The siblings’ parents are unable to take care of them. The ideal family would be that of a two-parent black family or a two-parent family that speaks Spanish.

For more information about the siblings please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, local 1139.

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The Atwater Poetry Project, led by poet Darren Bifford, presents readings by poets Nyla Matuk and Chris Jennings. Free admission. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Avenue. 7 pm.

**Saturday, March 29**

Earth Hour activities at Victoria Hall, 6 to 10 pm; lights-out 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

**Monday, March 31**

Screening of film *Forks over Knives*, 7 pm at the library, Healthy City Project and Westmount Library present film on nutrition and the control of degenerative diseases, emceed by Tony Moffat with guest Dr. Kristine Koski of McGill.

**Thursday, April 3**

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, Nancy Dunton on “The Houses of the Square Mile.” She will examine residential architecture when Montreal was Canada’s metropolis and discuss how Square Mile houses are used today. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

**Thursday, April 10**

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, art historian Sandra Paikowsky on “A Visit to Venice in Montreal.” She will concentrate on paintings. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

**Ongoing:**

Tumbling Tots. Centre Greene. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 11 am. Indoor/park playground for parents and children under 5 years. $3.50/morning drop-in. Coffee and cookies provided.

Please send your events in the above format by Friday at 2 pm to cu@westmountindependent.com.

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The following permits were approved at recent city council meetings.

**February 17**

4895 Sherbrooke: at the former post office, to lower window sills on Sherbrooke and Prince Albert facades; to create a curtain wall, modify some rear openings to create new exit doors; 4920 Sherbrooke: to alter front façade including new storefront glazing and entrance door as well as stone work; to build a small rear second-floor addition; 730 Upper Lansdowne: to build a rear deck; 542 Côte St. Antoine: to replace basement windows and kitchen door; 638 Lansdowne: to replace front and rear balcony railings, doors and windows; to modify some window openings, demolish a rear verandah and build a balcony there; 628 Roslyn: to replace garage door; 4927-A Sherbrooke: to install a sign for “Boutique Céline;” 342-B Victoria: to install a sign for “Angles Victoria,” conditional to the letters S.E.N.C being removed and lettering centered; 79 Holton: at a Category I building, to build a new garage inside and at the front of the house; 119 Aberdeen: to modify some window and door openings at the back and create a door and the roof of a small rear extension; 4055 St. Catherine: at a Category I building, to replace front doors; 371 Metcalfe: to replace some windows and doors; 4084 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for “Presse Café;” 388 Roslyn: to replace some doors.

**March 3**

4910 Sherbrooke: to add a new metal balcony, steps and guardrail, repair rear basement access and to modify grade in rear courtyard to capture surface water and install a permeable stabilizer.

**March 17**

3685 The Boulevard: at St. George’s School, to re-landscape front yard to include resurfacing the soccer field and replacing some of the fences conditional to the Frost fence being replaced by a traditional metal fence; 38 Windsor: landscaping to include new planting areas throughout the property, reconfiguring and repaving of walkways and driveway, installation of a new marquee over the main entrance and stone veneer over the existing concrete porch and steps; to add a new stairwell and connection to the rear balcony, a new spa and picket fence; 3122 Daulac: at a Category I house, to add three new dormers at the attic level (see story January 28, p. 8); 50 Aberdeen: at a Category I house, to demolish an existing detached garage and landscape the former driveway; to build a rear garage addition attached to the house with a roof top terrace, modify side entrance to accommodate new driveway; 636 Lansdowne: to replace windows and some doors and create new rear openings on the rear elevation; 1210 Greene: at a Category I building, to replace some windows and a rear door; 618 Murray Hill: to replace most windows; 648 Murray Hill: to replace a bay window and some basement storm windows; 3769 The Boulevard: to build an underground connection from house to garage, replace garage doors and some windows; 757 Upper Lansdowne: to build a basement access in converting a side window into a door; 346 Victoria: to install a sign for “Salon Doos;” 4390 Westmount: masonry and water proofing work at the King George Park comfort station.

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Roasted Beets and Baby Spinach

Beets were a staple of the diet of Eastern Ashkenazim. The sweet roasted beets complement the slight tang of goat cheese. This beautiful salad will light up any dinner table.

**Ingredients:**

**Vinaigrette**
- ½ cup (60 mL) balsamic vinegar
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) shallots, finely chopped
- 1 tsp (5 mL) honey or agave syrup
- ½ cup (75 mL) olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

**Salad**
- 6 medium beets, peeled and cut into 6 wedges each
- 6 cups (1.5 L) baby spinach
- ½ cup (125 mL) walnuts, coarsely chopped and toasted
- ¼ cup (60 mL) dried cherries or cranberries
- ½ medium avocado, peeled, pitted and cubed
- 3 oz (85 g) goat cheese, coarsely crumbled

**Instructions:**

Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Place a large piece of foil on a baking sheet.

To make the vinaigrette, whisk the vinegar, shallots, and honey or agave syrup in a medium bowl. Gradually whisk in the olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

To make the salad, toss the beets with enough of the vinaigrette to coat and place them in the centre of the prepared baking sheet. Top with another sheet of foil and crimp the edges to seal tightly. Roast the beets until they are tender when pierced with a fork, about 30 minutes.

Uncover the beets and continue roasting until they are slightly caramelized, shaking the pan occasionally, about 25 minutes longer.

In a large bowl, toss the spinach, beets, and avocado with enough of the vinaigrette to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Arrange the beets around the salad, sprinkle with the avocado and cheese, and serve.

Best served with Middle Eastern Roast Chicken (page 100)

To purchase a copy of Mosaic, or to find a retailer that carries the book, please go to www.mosaiccookbook.com
Dora and Blue Boy

9 Lives
Lysanne Fowler

We felt that Dora is more than ready to be adopted so she is featured this week in the hope that her gorgeous looks and sweet personality will catch someone's attention.

She is living in a foster home for the rescue au Répit de la Montagne, with the kitten Blue Boy. Both kittens are with the senior Neapolitan mastiff Valentine that we featured two weeks ago, because it is incredible to see just how he lets the kittens do as they please with him.

When we tried to photograph Dora, Blue Boy got in that photograph as well! Blue Boy is a natural, a friendly little thing that just loves the attention.

Both Dora and Blue Boy are young and healthy kittens that were saved as new-borns from the pound. They are up to date with their inoculations and waiting for a forever family. So irresistible!

If you would like more information on them, please do not hesitate to contact Anouk Lecompte on her cellular telephone at 514.234.2668 or on her email anouklecumahermax@sympatico.ca. The website for the rescue Au Répit de la Montagne is www.aurepitdemontagne.com.

New arrivals at the rescue – saving newborns

There was a middle-of-the-night rescue after a long drive on Tuesday, when two stunning great Dane puppies were saved after their mother died and they were left without care.

They were brought directly to the veterinarian by the rescue for care, literally as their doors opened in the morning.

They are two weeks old and are now stable on intravenous and antibiotics, and in the oxygen machine to help their little lungs as they develop.

They have the mother’s milk replacement as well when they are off the intravenous and are cared for continuously at this very precarious age. If you would like to find out more about them, please do not hesitate to contact Anouk.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Police Report
Five Westmount cars broken into in five-day stretch

BY Michael Moore

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

Five cars in Westmount were broken into and stolen from in as many days last week, according to police.

Car break-ins are most commonly crimes of opportunity carried about by individuals who spot a vulnerable vehicle, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel. However, police are investigating the spree between March 17 and 21 to find any discernable patterns between the incidents that can be used to prevent future thefts, he said.

“If there’s a pattern, [the investigation unit] will decide what action we take. Maybe it’ll be to increase police patrols or ask our out-of-uniform officers to give it more attention,” said Pimentel.

The first incident occurred on the evening of March 17 near Sherbrooke while the victim was shopping at the nearby Metro supermarket. When the victim returned to his car with his groceries, he reportedly noticed that his trunk was open and a backpack with clothes and personal belongings had been taken.

“The thief may have seen the driver leave and took a chance to see if the doors were unlocked,” he suggested.

In the four other incidents, thieves noticed bags left behind in the main part of the car and shattered a door window to access them, said Pimentel.

“Those windows are easy to shatter because their designed that way. In case of a collision, you want to be able to break a window, if needed,” he explained.

Between 6 and 10 pm on March 18, a car parked near the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve had its passenger-side window smashed and a backpack with school textbooks was taken.

Later that evening, a thief broke through the passenger window of a Mercedes on St. Catherine near Atwater and stole a handbag that had been hidden under the driver’s seat while the owner was in a movie theatre.

The string of break-ins continued with a pair of similar incidents reported within an hour of each other on the morning of March 21.

Just after 8 am, a neoprene bag was stolen and a window shattered on a parked car on Côte St. Antoine near Selwyn House and stole the school bag belonging to the vehicle’s owner.

There are currently no suspects in any of the five incidents, according to Pimentel.
No permit required for delivery

A crane occupying the sidewalk and road without a permit March 12 at Anwoth and Grove Park was allowed to complete a delivery, Public Security officials said. The crane was hoisting up heavy packages of wood flooring to a second-storey window of a home on Clarke.

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HRC: State Secrets and the Rebirth of

“The Husband’s Secret” by Liane Moriarty. Discovering a tattered letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband’s death, Cecilia is unable to resist reading the letter and discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women.

HRC: State Secrets and the Rebirth of

Hillary Clinton by Jonathan Allen. The mesmerizing story of Hillary Clinton’s political rebirth, based on eyewitness accounts from deep inside her inner circle and her relationship with Obama.

French E-books (Pretenumerique)

Le feu de mon père by Micheal Delisle. The author tells the story of his father, a violent man with a criminal past who became a charismatic Christian.

Ma vie sous le règne d’Hitler: un Allemand témoigne by Gunter Gallisch. This testimony of a fascinating era is about what life was really like in Germany in those days. Its focus is not on the ruling class and Hitler’s acolytes but on the common man who, more often than not, believed that Nazism was the way of the future.

Book club in a bag

The Orenda by Joseph Boyden. An epic story of first contact between three radically different civilizations in 17th-century Ontario. The narration alternates among Bird, a Huron warrior; Snow Falls, the young Iroquois captive he adopts after killing her family to avenge his wife and daughter; and Père Christophe, a thoughtfully intelligent, multilingual Jesuit missionary.

Adult English – Psychological fiction

The Headmaster’s Wife by Thomas Christopher Greene. Found wandering naked and mentally traumatized in Central Park, the headmaster of an elite boarding school imparts a story that is shaped by complicated memories, the evolution of a loving relationship, and a tragedy he cannot comprehend.

Kinder than Solitude by Yiyun Li. A tale set in America and China follows the experiences of three people who in their youths were involved in a mysterious accident that resulted in a friend’s fatal poisoning and years later are haunted by the possibility that one of them actually committed a murder.

Adult French – Popular psychology

La force des discrèts: le pouvoir des introvertis dans un monde trop bavard by Susan Cain. In the 21st century, the ideal man is supposed to be sociable, risk-taking and able to work in teams. In this essay on introverted people, Cain proves that, contrary to popular belief, their creativity shines over business, arts and politics.

Malade et... heureux?: huit attitudes qui ont transformé des vies (et qui pourraient changer la vôtre) by Lucie Mandeville. It is not uncommon for individuals to find unsuspected strengths within themselves when faced with serious illness. Who are these people and how can we learn from them? Based on their stories and recent scientific research, this book identifies attitudes that favor a return to well-being.

DVs

Love, Marilyn. Modern-day celebrities

Tractor left running at 11:18 pm

A John Deere tractor involved in snow removal was left running unattended in the driveway of a house on Upper Roslyn Ave. March 12, Public Security officials said.

Answering a complaint to the home at 11:18 pm, officers removed the keys from the vehicle and left an explanatory note.

Two hours later, a contractor called the office to demand his keys. He stated he had left the engine running because he was going to clear snow at houses in adjacent Montreal.

He was given a $58 ticket for idling an engine more than the permitted three minutes.
Fossils in the greystones
Westmount’s half-billion years of history

By Robert J. Galbraith

Half a billion years ago, the area of the future city of Westmount lay under an ocean. In fact, at the time, most of the world was underwater and the overall landscape of North America resembled a shallow, warm, tropical sea. There were no land animals as there was no land, except for a few small islands near the present-day Caribbean.

Tectonic plates collided with each other, forming underwater mountain ranges, volcanoes and rifts, the predecessors of our present continents.

(Modern humans first appeared on Earth around 200,000 years ago — a wink in time as far as the history of the Earth is concerned.)

During this period, known as the Ordovician Period (which lasted almost 70 million years, beginning 510 million years ago and ending 439 million years ago), this nutrient-rich water would give rise to the minute soft-bodied animals that would become the well-known Montreal limestone (also referred to as Trenton limestone or greystone) that was used to build many of our homes and institutions.

Animals turn to stone

As the aquatic animals died, they fell to the ocean floor, eventually building up a quarter-kilometer-deep layer of greystone sedimentary limestone. This layer of greystone was used as a building material for many of Westmount’s buildings.

“One inch of greystone represents about 10,000 years of sedimentation,” explained Ingrid Birker, a paleontologist and science outreach coordinator with McGill University’s Redpath Museum. “It was a time when all these animals were invertebrates, with an exoskeleton or shell coverings or neither, such as worms and other soft bodied animals like sponge. There were no animals with bones. Real bony fish did not start appearing until 200 million years later,” she stated.

But you don’t have to go far to see the fossils that these great seas left behind. In fact, you might not have to go much further than your doorway.

Fossils everywhere

Most of the greystone homes surveyed for fossils for this article contained shells and coral-like animals. Westmount city hall has a fine selection of fossils on its exterior façade. You just have to get used to what you are looking for; but once you catch on, you start seeing them everywhere.

A mass of brachiopods adorn Westmount city hall’s exterior walls. Once you start looking for fossils in the greystone rock of Westmount, it doesn’t take long before you are seeing them everywhere, in stone walls, walkways and homes.
Worm tracks from the Ordovician Period remain in a slab of stone at Selwyn House School. This building has a number of easily seen and interesting fossils that date to around 500 million years ago. quarry was once located) and the former post office on Sherbrooke St. at Prince Albert. Wherever you find greystone as a building material, Ordovician Period fossils are definitely nearby.

By the end of the late 19th century, greystone started falling out of favour as a building material, to be replaced by red brick. The great greystone era of Montreal was coming to an end.

Nowadays, greystone limestone is crushed as an aggregate in cement production or as filler for driveways and roadways. Some greystone is still used as a principal building material and while its heyday is over, its beauty is very much in evidence, as a covering for our homes and institutions.

For more information on fossils and fossil tours in downtown Montreal, contact Ingrid Birker of the Redpath Museum at ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca, www.mcgill.ca/redpath/, or call 514.398.4094. The museum is free and open Monday to Friday, from 9 to 5 pm and every Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. It is closed Saturdays.

Vagrants ‘squat’ at Stayner comfort station – again

For the second time in two weeks, vagrants were found sleeping on benches at the Stayner Park comfort station March 12, Public Security officials said. They were asked to leave just after 2 pm.

Officers are stepping up patrols of the park as a result. A previous event was reported on February 25 (see March 11, p. 7).

When my daughter and I moved to Montreal eight years ago, she was just over a year old. I hadn’t lived here in over 10 years, and I knew almost no one. I had left at 21 and was returning as a recently separated single mother.

I was so freshly separated that when I discovered my ex-husband’s suit had been mistakenly packed with my things, I believed it was a sign that we would reconcile. For weeks after we moved, A. took the stuffed animal she usually reserved for bedtime everywhere.

The first time her father took her for the weekend, I felt like I’d lost a limb. I had no idea what to do with myself, and barely a clue as to who I was without her. So I signed up for a hip-hop class and danced my Saturday mornings away.

Slowly I tried to make Montreal mine. I forced myself to attend events at which I knew almost no one, just to connect. The hardest was the Kids for Kids ball where I knew only the brother of one of my best friends, and not well. It was right out of one of those bad prom scenes from a 90s flick. But I stayed, I smiled, I danced, I bumped into old acquaintances. It vaccinated me against the fear of being the odd man out. It was my social Ironman, and just as painful.

Classes helped

A.’s neediness was my salvation. It anchored me to myself. I signed us up for playgroups, for music classes and for swimming classes in the dead of winter.

It’s taken me years not to be punched in the heart by the togetherness of families, but it happened again recently when I took A. skiing. I’d forgotten how it felt to be surrounded by dads helping their kids get up after they fell flat on their faces, sharing the carrying, cheering, dragging that is the real skiing-with-kids experience, with their spouses.

It’s still just us, but it was a beautiful day and I refuse to stop doing what we love just because it hurts a little. After all, I survived an Ironman.
Masked Farha ball raises $250k for AIDS causes

Once again, the Farha Foundation held its masked and always sold-out eve at Marché Bonsecours. Tickets were $300.

The foundation was founded by Ron Farha who passed away from AIDS in 1993, but whose family continues the fight. His mother, Evelyn, is honorary president, and his sisters are totally involved.

Linda is president, Nancy is executive director and Carolyn is vice president. The night was frigid and Bob Perras’ valet parking team whisked cars away for a cost of $20.

Among the guests were committee members Westmount residents Barry Garber, über-agent to stars; Anna and John Broccoli; and Josh Fagan; as well as Dr. Réjean Thomas; Kim and Jay Goldman; Angela DiCorpo, Dominique Bélisle, Kristine Goulet, Jason Katz, Alexandra and Matthew Ieraci, Pierre Lefebvre, Jessica

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Smoke detectors checked out

A public safety officer changed smoke detector batteries for an elderly woman on Grosvenor who called to have the devices checked out for her February 25, Public Security officials said.

She was advised to replace the older units. At the same time, she was given information on the department’s new program for assistance to seniors called “Security and Aging: You’re not alone.”
Sullivan honoured at St. Patrick’s on St. Patrick’s

Westmunter Dan Sullivan was presented with the Monsignor Russell Breen medal of honour on March 16. The ceremony took place at St. Patrick’s Basilica at the “Green Mass” prior to the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Sullivan was being recognized for his work as a board member and officer of St. Ignatius of Loyola parish, the Father Dow Foundation, Catholic Community Services, Sacred Heart School, St. Mary’s Hospital, the parish of St. Patrick and the St. Patrick’s Basilica Restoration Foundation.

Cleland in Memory of Water

Westmunter Katherine Cleland will play the character of Catherine in the Montreal premiere of Shelagh Stephenson’s The Memory of Water, which runs from April 8 to 12 at Theatre La Chapelle.

It is directed by Corey Castle of Theatre 317.

According to the group’s press release, “In The Memory of Water, three sisters, each haunted by their own demons, gather in a highly charged atmosphere on the eve of their mother’s funeral.

With a storm raging outside, they laugh, cry, rage and bicker as the conflicts of the past and their hold on the present are mercilessly exposed.”

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SULLIVAN HONOURED AT ST. PATRICK’S ON ST. PATRICK’S

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