

Bill 3 on track for pension fund sustainability: Mayor Trent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Quebec's Bill 3, which gives new powers to municipalities to help deal with pension fund deficits, can't come soon enough for Mayor Peter Trent. He began sounding the alarm over the viability of such funds back in 2010, calling on the provincial government for help.

Westmount pensioners are not expected to be affected by Bill 3, but its framework of allowing for municipalities to renegotiate pension contracts aims to create a more equitable sharing of costs with current employees moving forward.

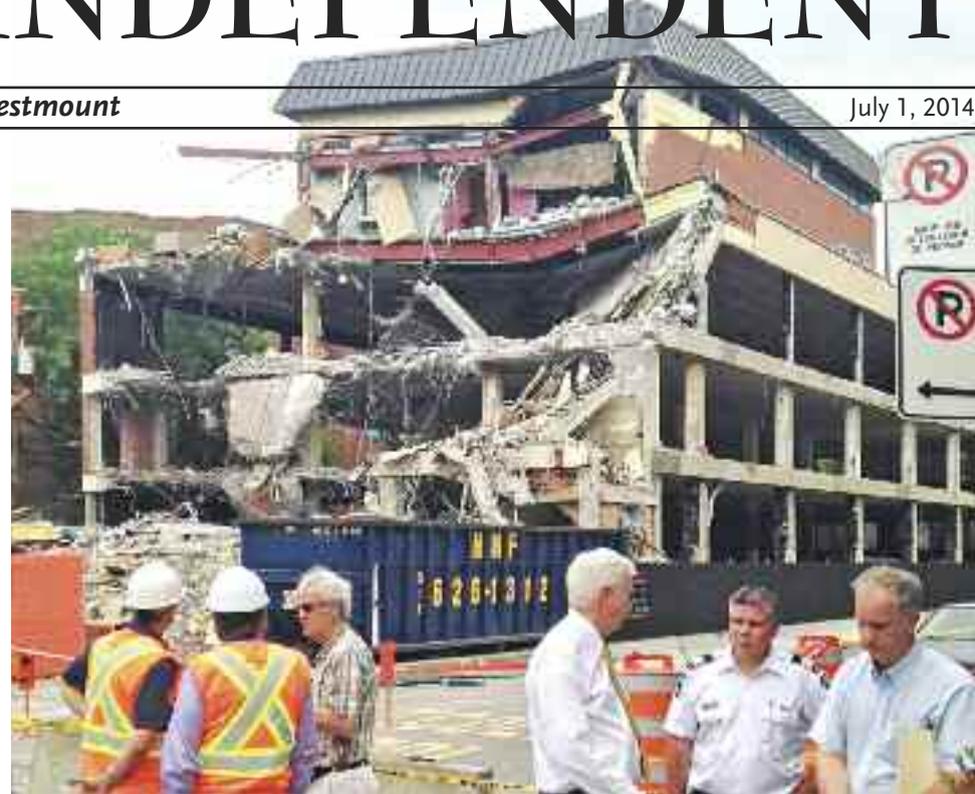
"Quebec got us into this mess and has to help us get out of it," Trent said last week.

Many municipal pension plans have been accruing large actuarial deficits due,

in part, he contends, to the forced mergers of 2002, after which labour costs were raised to the higher, city of Montreal level. He also *continued on p. 8*

School's out – books burned

A resident of Claremont called public safety officers June 19 to report a fire that had taken place in the entrance of a private house near Parkman Place. Public Security officials said the small fire was already out when they were summoned at 5:21 pm. It appeared to have been set to burn books at the end of school. Officers helped the resident clean up.



SECTION COLLAPSES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE The former Vanguard school on Metcalfe below St. Catherine began to fall down in an unplanned way as workers were demolishing it June 25. The 175 Metcalfe condo/townhouse complex is planned for the site. Visible in foreground at 2:45 pm are Councillor Patrick Martin (third from left) and city director general Duncan Campbell (fourth from left). See story, p. 4.

Photo: Alexander Armster-Wikoff.

9 Lives, p. 20 Comin' Up, p. 18
Social Notes, p. 22 Dodge, p. 17

One charged criminally, another fined \$857

PSOs arrest graffiti-ists in 2 overnight vandalism incidents

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three young men were caught red-handed by public safety officers on overnight patrols June 22 and 23 during two separate graffiti incidents last week, Public Security officials said. Neither was linked to a recent graffiti spree.

One of those arrested, a 17-year-old from the South Shore, was charged under the Criminal Code as an accomplice in the defacing of a wall of the Cecil apartments near the southwest corner of Sherbrooke

and Lansdowne. His partner, the perpetrator, made good his escape.

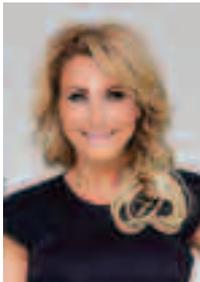
In the second incident, which took place outside the Westmount Y, a 19-year-old from Côte St. Luc was ticketed \$638 for graffiti and \$219 for being drunk and disorderly in a public place.

"We're hoping to pursue those involved in both incidents to recover clean-up costs," said Public Security director Greg McBain in relating how they were intercepted.

At the city council *continued on p. 14*

Greene street fair coverage, see p. 15

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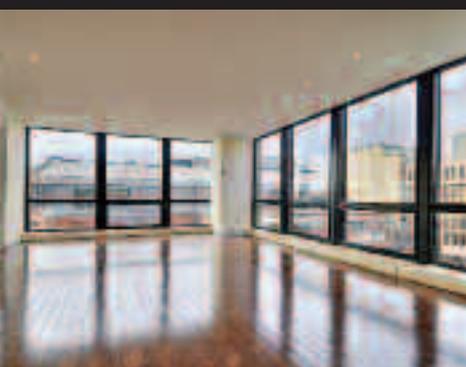
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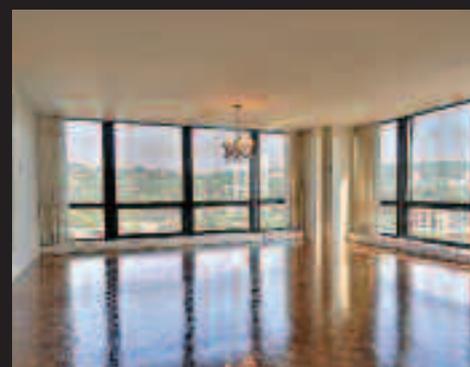
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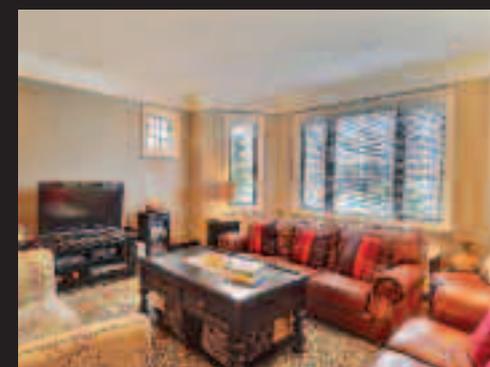
Westmount
3 Westmount-Square #416 - \$1,095,000



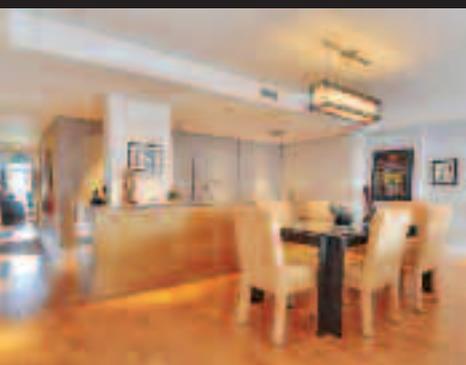
Westmount - 3 Westmount-Square
#1013-1014 - \$1,695,000



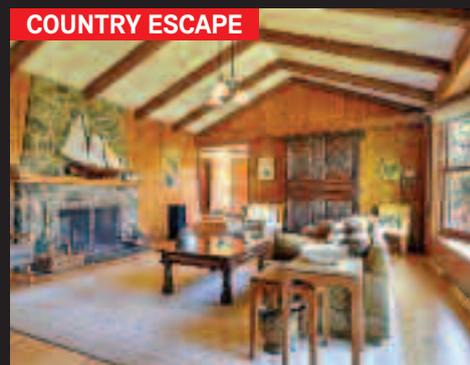
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Westmount's beeswax



Photo: Ralph Thompson.

Bees were the centre of attention at the Westmount Public Library June 25. About 30 children, their parents and representatives from Westmount Science Camp attended the presentation on bees given by Declan Rankin Jardin from Alvéole, pictured above, and his installation of a beehive on the roof of the library (viewable from the top floor window of the library, next to the elevator).

Also in attendance were Councillor

Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks, and Julie-Anne Cardella, the library's director.

The hive, containing more than 10,000 honey bees, will supply 10 large trays of honey by the end of summer. The queen will continue to produce around 2,000 eggs per day throughout the summer. The library has collected a large number of reference books about bees (available on the top floor).

Weekend brings many noise complaints

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A rash of noise complaints over Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22, brought public safety officers to at least eight reported gatherings starting at 12:12 am with loud voices from the back yard of a house on Aberdeen.

Verbal warnings were all that was needed in most cases to tone down the sound level by moving guests inside or closing windows, said Public Security officials. Only one ticket had to be issued.

This was generated by a basement party on Lansdowne north of Sherbrooke overnight June 21-22 when public safety officers were called out for complaints at

11:53 pm, 12:52 am and 2:53 am. Finally, when yelling could still be heard inside and outside at 3 am, the 19-year-old host was told he would be receiving a ticket for \$148 by registered mail.

Other complaints were sparked by house parties on Cedar, Redfern, Sherbrooke and Thornhill as well as by noisy groups in parks. At one gathering a group of 12- to 15-year-olds was ordered out of King George (Murray) Park. They were reported to have headed to "a house party on Lansdowne," though it was not known whether this was same one that fuelled so many complaints.

Another group was cleared off the Summit lookout at 1:37 am.

Three tickets issued for leaf blowers

Three users of leaf blowers out of season were ticketed within one week, Public Security officials said. The first one for \$269 was issued to a licenced gardening contractor June 17 when he was noticed working outside 4450 Sherbrooke at 12 noon and blowing leaves and other debris into the street.

Another was heard June 20 behind 4800 de Maisonneuve, the Westmount Es-

tates apartments at Roslyn. A colleague of the user was reported to have asked officers to "close their eyes" to the offence this time. A ticket was issued for \$148, an amount usually given to an individual rather than a company.

On June 21, a contractor received a ticket for \$269 for using a blower at the rear of a house on Roslyn north of Sherbrooke following a complaint at 12:11 pm.

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Work stopped when safety threatened

Metcalfe demolition proceeds after partial collapse

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work to demolish the former Vanguard school building at 175 Metcalfe was given the green light to resume June 26 under the watch of an independent engineer after a portion of the top fourth floor collapsed the day before. The site is being prepared for a condo/townhouse development.

The work had been stopped by the CSST, the workplace health and safety board, after a city Urban Planning inspector that morning had reported concerns over safety and stability. The street was closed by Public Security and the area cordoned off.

City director general Duncan Campbell said the inspector had noticed an issue with the way the building was being demolished and material was falling after a north wall was removed on the top storey, a gym, and a supporting column had been “knocked out of line.”

Beam buckles

This was believed to have caused a steel beam to buckle and subsequently break from the “dead weight” of the gym.

The gym “imploded” onto the site in a cloud of dust at 3:15 pm in front of city officials and emergency personnel, who had converged on the site.

“Just as I was standing there, six rows of bricks fell from the top,” said Councillor Patrick Martin, an engineer. The buckled steel beam was something he said he had never seen before.

Firefighters were called amidst fears of more collapse.

Houses on the west side of the street were evacuated while residents of the west wing of the adjacent Place Kensington seniors’ residence were moved out of their rooms to a dining area. All were allowed to return that evening and no injuries



A part of the former Vanguard School collapsing at 3:15 pm on June 25, after the initial alert that morning to a problem.



Photos courtesy of Patrick Martin.



were reported.

An independent engineer was brought in by the CSST to assess the situation and determined no further risk of building collapse existed but that equipment on the site was “insufficient” to do the job.

Larger equipment was brought in

overnight so demolition could continue, Campbell said.

“Whether the problem resulted from a mistake, accident or a defect in the original building, our main concern was that no one was injured,” developer Francis Charron told the *Independent*.

He said he had received a call from Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier that morning telling him “a problem” had been discovered. His partner had been on the scene, he said.

But Martin, who had chaired the city’s Demolition committee and voted against approving building permits for the six-



storey project based on its massing, was critical of the demolition process and called for “severe penalties.”

“What a mess,” he said from the site even before the collapse. “The demolition



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Rainy day basin



The retention basin between the Westmount recreation centre and St. Catherine St. was put to use on June 25. It is pictured here at 6 am. It “is obviously doing its job. Water that otherwise would have been added to the heavily loaded sewer system during the rainstorm was instead held back for slow release,” said Councillor Patrick Martin.

Photo courtesy of P. Martin.

shovel they (have been) using cannot reach the upper storeys.”

Campbell said it had yet to be known what, if any, related costs would be.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who represents the district and arrived at the scene just after the collapse, said firefighters had done a “good job.”

She said it was significant to note that because the building was in the throes of being demolished, the debris seen in photos “that looked like a bombing” was already there.

Resident: Previously ‘clean’

She also noted that a resident living across the street told her that up to that point the demolition had taken place very cleanly. The potential impact of the work had been a major concern raised by residents at public meetings.

Moving forward, Campbell said, the incident showed there was probably a need

for the city to require a defined plan for demolition. This was the largest building he knew of that had been demolished in Westmount, although several have been levelled after fires.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DELAY PRINCE ALBERT SQUARE

The city still appears to be recklessly pursuing the creation of a square at the intersection of Prince Albert and Sherbrooke, the result of which would be the permanent elimination of a least six parking spots, seriously harming the viability of the Victoria village merchants, the very group the city claims to support.

This is before the council, the residents and the village merchants have even had a chance to review the results of the parking study commissioned to look at the impact of the new MUHC hospital.

The nine parking spots the city claims to have found to replace the eliminated ones are gone already from merchant use, taken up by an influx of patients of six additional doctors permitted by the recently adopted medical office rezoning for the village.

Doctors' patients are not inclined to shop. A key factor in why the merchants on Greene Ave. are now hurting is the lack of readily available parking for their customers. The continued expansion of medical services in that area and the elimination through condo development of the street level parking lot at Greene and de Maisonneuve have significantly reduced the availability of customer parking. We don't want the same problem here in the village.

The proposed plaza needs to be delayed with some serious thinking on a redesign that beautifies the area while limiting parking loss.

DENIS BIRO
BURTON AVE.

LOVE THE PARK

The dog run for the south part of the city should not go in the center of Westmount Park.

Landscape architect Marc Fauteux, frequently hired by the city and author of its master plan for parks, has said in the master plan that Westmount Park is already beyond the saturation point. He said that new installations would interfere seriously with the integrity of the space and diminish areas of relaxation, walking and contemplation.

There will likely be people driving their dogs to the park if the dog run is placed there, just as they drive to the summit. This is another factor that would increase saturation and a reason not to have it in the park.

Citizens have not seen the mandate that the city gave Hodgins and Associates, but hopefully it includes looking at several spaces, including where the dog run was before the Westmount recreation centre was built. The consultants may have ideas for how it could be built in this area. The mandate should also include looking at the Westmount Athletic Grounds as a site.

News item: World Cup soccer continues until July 13



There is supposed to be a poll about this issue. Will this poll be for all Westmount residents? Will it be sent out in the summer months when many residents are not at home?

Recently while walking through the park with a non-Westmount friend, I told her that the city was thinking of putting a dog run in the park. She said that "they must not love the park."

I would ask the council to please show that it does love the park and not to place the dog run in the core of it.

MARILYNN GILLIES
MELVILLE AVE.

SHERBROOKE IS SHERBROOKE, OR IS IT?

Sherbrooke St. is the same width throughout Westmount so why do the crossing signals allow 22 seconds for pedestrians to get across the street at some intersections and only 18 or 20 seconds at other intersections?

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

Correction: Montreal Children's Library

The title of our article "85 years of books for sick kids" (June 17, p. 9) was incorrect. The principal mandate of the Montreal Children's Library is not to provide books for unwell children, although that is a small part of its programming.

The library serves children in English and French at its branches and via programs at the sites of other institutions.

It currently has two fully operating campuses (one in the East End and another in Little Burgundy). Its branch at the Atwater Library has been closed since May 2013, but it continues to provide services locally, such as its current Fun in the Sun summer program at the St. James the Apostle church downtown and offerings this spring at Centre Greene.

J. TURGEON
MOUNT STEPHEN

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Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

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Criteria would exclude antiquarian book fair

Policy for public use of city buildings tabled for input

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A draft policy detailing the public use of municipal buildings and the rationale behind it has been tabled by city council so citizens can make input into it before its adoption.

The policy covers a host of various types of activities that could take place in municipal facilities, subject to a number of exceptions but which, in general, should be not-for profit in nature, non-commercial and open to all residents.

The underlying message is that municipal facilities are maintained and funded by taxpayers and rate-payers (tenants) who should not be restricted to their use. While events might charge nominal entry fees, they should not be closed private functions.

The policy is not expected to affect most current users of city-owned facilities but to set down criteria for future decisions.

“The goal is not to turf people out,” said Mayor Peter Trent, who wrote the policy, “but to have a consistent policy when people come knocking at our door.”

The nature of the activity taking place must be considered cultural, educational, recreational, social or political and subject to being local in nature but not for fundraising that benefits educational, medical, government or religious institutions.

Ice rink rental excluded

“Private use of or restricted entry to such publicly funded buildings should not be allowed even if it came with monetary compensation to the city, the one excep-

tion being the rental of ice rinks,” the policy states.

As might be expected, however, Westmount city council or the administration may hold information, recreational and community events at their discretion.

The need for an updated policy was brought to the fore by questions at recent council meetings from Wilfrid de Freitas, organizer of the Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair, asking why the group has not been permitted to hold its annual book fair at Victoria Hall for the past few years.

The bottom line, according to the policy, is that the Antiquarian Book Fair would not be permitted in city facilities on the basis that the sellers are dealers and not local artists or artisans and that a fair is a for-profit activity.

According to the reasoning, while an antiquarian book may be old, probably rare and of interest to the general public, it falls into the same category as antiques. The city would not allow an antique sale at Victoria Hall, for example, “unless all proceeds went to a local charitable cause.”

The policy also includes the current policy under which the city charges private schools rent for certain facilities or in the case of public schools, requires the reciprocal free use of their facilities such as gyms.

A full text of the draft policy is expected to be available for consultation on the city website at www.westmount.org as soon as the original document, written in English, can be translated into French, Trent explained.

Place Kensington resident wanders at 4:08 am

An elderly woman was reported to have been found by a public safety officer at 4:08 am June 19 at St. Catherine and Irvine.

Public Security officials said they had searched the area after receiving a call from a resident of the 200 Lansdowne condos about a woman who appeared disoriented at Lansdowne and St. Catherine.

They picked her up and took her home

to Place Kensington on St. Catherine near Kensington.

Doors covered in graffiti

Black graffiti was found on three white garage doors at the back of houses on St. Antoine St., Public Security officials said.

The doors had been “pretty well covered” with paint over the weekend of June 14-15.

Group taunts soccer girls at Wst Park

Public safety officers were called to disperse a group of about 10 youths taunting girls playing in the city’s soccer program on the Academy Rd. fields June 19, Public Security officials said. The youths had

begun bothering the girls after being told to stop playing without authorization on the Melville field. The officers were called for assistance by Sports and Recreation personnel at 5:19 pm.

Illicit beer, dog at WAG

An 18-year-old Westmount man was issued a \$219 ticket June 17 for taking beer into a city park – the Westmount Athletic Grounds, Public Security officials said. A patroller spotted him at 8:50 pm among a group of about 12 young people. He was holding an unopened bottle. A case of beer at his feet was turfed in the garbage.

The owner of a black-and-white spaniel was ticketed \$76 for allowing the dog to go off leash in the Westmount Athletic Grounds June 18, Public Security officials said. The dog had a valid licence when spotted at 8:37 pm. It lived nearby.

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Bill 3, cont'd. from p. 1

recalled the history of the province adding to municipalities' fiscal responsibilities in the late 1990s and allowing a pension-contributions holiday as a way to help them pay for the resulting costs.

Other factors since then include lower interest rates, stock market drops in 2008, the large number of retirees living longer and a decreasing number of active employees paying into the plans.

Restructuring of plans

Bill 3's draft version states that municipal defined pension plans must be restructured with a view to "improving their financial help and ensuring their sustainability."

The plans must be amended, retroactively, from January 1, 2014 to reflect equal sharing of costs between active employees and the municipality as well as the sharing of future deficits and the creation of a stabilization (reserve) fund.

As well, the maximum cost of the plan - current service costs and stabilization contributions - must not exceed 18 percent of payroll, a key element to Trent.

"The 18 percent in this law is the equivalent of the federal government's allowable yearly contribution to RRSPs," he pointed out.

On this basis, Westmount's own plan, using Bill 3 measurements, would amount to 26.3 percent of payroll, Trent explained. Westmount employees currently contribute 9 percent of their pay into the plan while the city adds 14.9 percent. An additional 10 percent for the stability fund would bring it up to the 26.3 percent.

"So that's the number that has to come

More plantings to follow**45 new trees at WRC site, Lansdowne row planted**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The planting June 20 of 13 trees by the city along Lansdowne in front of the city's swimming pool brings to some 45 the total number reported so far to have been added in landscaping the new Westmount recreation centre.

"There's lots more plantings, including trees, to come," said Jayme Gerbrandt, the city's arboriculture and horticulture inspector. "We're looking at the area around the retention basin, the parking lot and more along Lansdowne."

The trees replace those that were removed during construction of the WRC.

The 13 on Lansdowne were the first ones planted by the city so they could to act as a screen for the pool, she explained. These are large species: five common hackberry, three ironwoods, three red oak and two American linden, also known as basswood.

Another 32 smaller ones on the parkland covering the roof of the underground rinks were planted by contractor Pomerleau as part of his contract with the city, explained Councillor Patrick Martin, Public Works commissioner.

These are various species of service-down to 18 percent," he said.

Agglo effect significant

Nevertheless, to Trent, in his role as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) and vice chair of the Montreal/aggglomeration Finance and Administration committee, the biggest im-



Tree planting in progress on June 20.

berry, an indigenous tree with white flowers in spring and red berries in the fall that attract birds. These trees are more suited to the green roof which requires trees that

are lighter in weight and have smaller root structures than the larger shade trees such as those now being planted by the city.

pact of Bill 3 will be felt on Montreal's pension funds, which ASM members are obliged to help cover through shared agglomeration costs.

In Westmount's case, its share of agglo payroll and pension benefits amounts to some \$26 million of its annual \$50-million agglo contribution. This is even greater than the equivalent \$22 million the city spends on its own employees, Trent pointed out.

One provision of Bill 3, which "fortunately does not apply to Westmount," Trent noted, is a provision to eliminate the indexing of pensions to cost-of-living increases. Westmount's pensions are not indexed. This means as inflation and interests rates rise, the city will be able to benefit from these to help pay down the past actuarial deficit.

"I'm asking to present a brief on behalf of the ASM to the Bill 3 hearings this summer," he said, adding "considering I led the charge" (on the pension issue).

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At the end of 2010, Trent had already challenged then Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay to go to Quebec City with him to persuade the government to help municipalities rein in pension fund costs (see story December 7, 2010, p. 18).

He continued crusading on the issue by boycotting agglo finance/budget meetings in protest of spiralling budgetary increases fuelled largely by payroll and pension-plan deficits (see story December 14, 2010, p. 10).

It was not, however, until the issue was also taken up by current Montreal mayor Denis Coderre and Quebec City mayor Régis Labeaume, supported by Trent and the Union of Quebec Municipalities, that pension-fund legislation was prepared, first by the Parti Québécois and then by the Liberals' farther-reaching provisions of Bill 3.

Many municipal and Montreal agglomeration workers demonstrated against Bill 3 on June 17 in Westmount and elsewhere (see June 24 *Independent*, p. 1).

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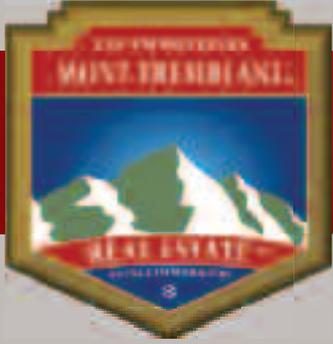
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Restoration Hardware catalogues 'delivered' to Summit Woods

A large pile of catalogues was found dumped in Summit Woods at 5:16 pm June 20, Public Security officials said. The finder showed officers the 36 catalogues, packaged in plastic, addressed to various locations throughout Westmount and each bearing a UPS sticker.

Officials from the delivery service were contacted and were to pick up the material from Public Security June 23. The catalogues came from Restoration Hardware.



Charles Pearo

Ph.D.
Real Estate Broker

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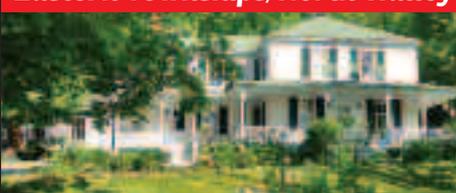
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U10 girls' soccer: Good start to season



The Westmount Soccer Club's girls U10 intercity soccer team scored its first victory with a 3-2 win over Trois Lacs June 23 in Vaudreuil. This is the first year there is summer soccer for this age bracket. The club also has teams for U12 girls and U10, U13 and U15 boys.

Photo courtesy of Alicia Hamilton.

Two silvers, one gold for Westenberg



Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg.

Westmounter and soccer player Emma Westenberg has returned from Brazil with two second-place finishes at the pre-World Cup CMEFE Coupe du Monde de Football (see also "Westenberg in Brazil," June 10, p. 5).

Out of 12 teams, the Canadian contingent, composed of students from Marie de France - Westenberg's school - and Collège Stanislas, came second by beating all of the teams in its pool and losing the championship game to Dubai 1-0.

In addition, the team was awarded the prize for best technical team and Westenberg came second out of 120 players in a skills-testing gymkhana.

Burglar caught trying to climb rock face

A man trying to climb a sloping rock wall June 17 under the Ville Marie expressway at Hydro Westmount property on Glen Rd. was caught by police, Public Security officials said.

The suspect had apparently broken into a car and was trying to get away.

Public safety officers were alerted by Hydro personnel at 1:41 pm when the man was spotted on the wall but the incident was already in the hands of police.

Failed warnings bring \$76 ticket

A dog owner who failed to heed a 14-day warning to obtain a valid dog licence was sent a \$76 ticket June 17, Public Security officials said.

The woman, whose black spaniel had been found running loose on Redfern north of de Maisonneuve May 28, had been issued the delay when she went to pick up the dog from Public Security.

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Habitat 67 - Waterfront



2600 Pierre-Dupuy
Apt 216, OH 1:30 - 3:00 \$499,500

RARE 2 cubes on one level on river. 2BDR, Huge terrace-solarium possibility. Like being in the country, a few minutes from downtown private shuttle, dog friendly, tennis, doorman

Double size lot, Views



Saint-Sulpice \$3,995,000

Grand 4 storey home w/ elevator on 14410 sf lot! 7700 sf living area. 7+1 bdms, 5+1 bth, 2 master suites on top flr, 2 car garage, magical gardens, city views, walk to Greene.

Renovated Westmount Mini-Mansion



3216 Boulevard - OH Sun July 13th 2 - 4PM

\$1,798,000

Surprisingly quiet w/ flat landscaped backyard. Gorgeous renov. Sun & joy-filled classic, central hall plan, 2 solariums, lots of architectural details, C/A, Sep. side entrance to high ceiling above grade garden level w/ new playroom "WALK OUT" to deck & garden. 4+1 BDR, 4+1 BTH. For couples or families. See video at: youtube.com/westmountrealty

Habitat 67 - City Views



Lowest priced 3 cube \$740,000

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Prospect near Stayner Park



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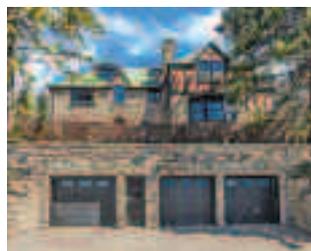
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SUNNYSIDE, WSTMT
\$5,900,000



DAULAC, WSTMT ADJ. \$5,500,000



GENEVA, TMR
\$4,900,000



COLONIALE, PLATEAU
\$3,995,000



SUNNYSIDE, WESTMOUNT \$7,500,000



UPPER CLARKE, WSTMT \$3,950,000



BEAU-BOIS, AHUNTSIC \$3,750,000



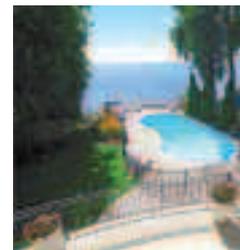
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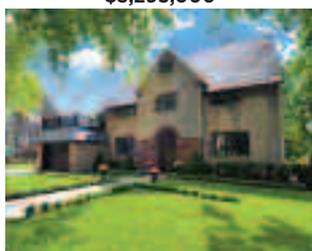
REDPATH, GOLDEN SQ. MILE
\$3,280,000



CÔTE-STE-CATHERINE, OUTREMONT \$3,188,000



COURS EAST GABRIEL, BEAUNSF. \$2,970,000



HOLTON, WSTMT \$2,595,000



COMPTON, BROMONT \$2,495,000



THE BOULEVARD, WSMT \$2,295,000



AV. DE VENDOME, WSTMT ADJ., \$2,250,000



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GROSVENOR, WSTMT
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DAVAAR,
OUTREMONT \$1,095,000



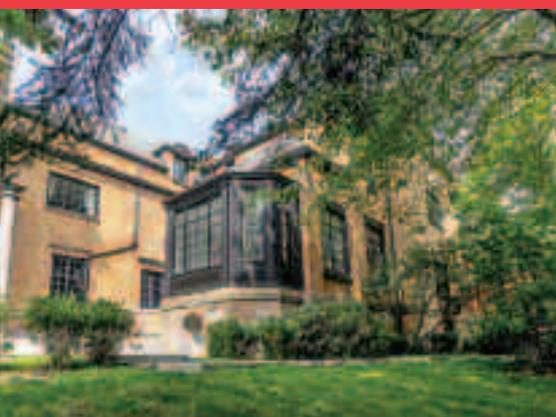
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Arrests, cont'd. from p. 1

meeting June 2, a contract for graffiti removal for the next year was awarded to Solutions Graffiti at a cost of \$40,241 based on 2,000 square feet.

The first incident was discovered in progress June 22 at 1:55 am by a patroller who spotted two people appearing to be in the process of tagging a side wall of the apartment building with black paint.

One of the suspects, dressed entirely in black, was seen doing the painting, while the other was described as standing guard. As both were intercepted and ordered to put their hands on a wall, one fled. A total of eight spray cans were found at the scene. The so-called accomplice was read his rights while awaiting police.

Caught 'black handed'

Police arrived at 2:10 am, identified him as a South Shore resident known in connection with previous graffiti and vandalism incidents. He was described as having black paint on his hands.

The youth was charged and taken to the police station to be picked up by his parents.

"Hopefully his arrest will lead to the identity of the perpetrator," McBain said.

On June 23 at 12:01 am - scarcely 24

hours later - the same team of patrollers discovered the second incident. It started out with one officer watching a group of three intoxicated young men at Sherbrooke and Strathcona.

Unmarked car takes over

When they noticed the marked patrol vehicle, the officer drove off, leaving surveillance to a patroller using an unmarked car. One of the trio suddenly pulled out what appeared to be a marker and was seen to write something on a handicapped parking sign at Arlington and Sherbrooke.

He then wrote on a city traffic-light control box and a Canada Post box outside the Westmount Y. At that point, he was intercepted by public safety officers. At 12:45 am, police arrived, found he had no prior offences and it was decided to proceed against him under municipal by-laws.

The 19-year-old resident of Côte St. Luc was ticketed on the spot for graffiti on three pieces of public property and for being drunk and disorderly in a public place.

A city policy regarding graffiti adopted in 2010 recommended criminal action when possible against suspects. It also authorized the city's clerk's office to recover clean-up costs from those responsible or their parents.

Abbott to release history of Memphremagog

Former Westmounter Louise Abbott is publishing her new book *Memphremagog: An Illustrated History / Une histoire illustrée (Volume 1)*. This book is described in a press release as "the first-ever landscape history of Lake Memphremagog and its surroundings." The Memphremagog Conservation Incorporated will receive a portion of the proceeds from sales.

Book launches will take place in various locations around the lake from July to October, including July 20 in Georgeville, July 24 in Austin and August 2 in Mansonville.

de Bellefeuille expands



PHOTO & STORY: VERONICA REDGRAVE.

The space on Greene Ave. that was formerly Nicholas Hoare's book emporium has found a new tenant: Galerie de Bellefeuille has opened GB II. The main gallery, located across the street, was bursting at the seams with art ranging from sculpture, painting and photography, as well as artist-created furniture. The 6,500-square-foot new gallery, completely renovated into a "white cube" space and polished floors, will exhibit contemporary photography. Internationally-renowned artist Robert Polidori, whose photos of Versailles are in private and public collec-

tions around the world, was just in Westmount to see it. A Jim Dine sculpture sits outside GB II, which will have an official launch this fall.

Electricity okay, 'artistic' photos - no

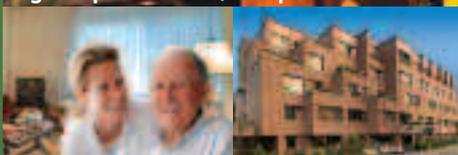
City security cameras caught two people on Hydro Westmount's Glen Rd. site June 20 at 3:23 pm, Public Security officials said. Patrollers found the two were taking "artistic photos" and told them to leave. One was from NDG, the other from the south-shore town of Verchères.

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Merchants get into the swing of Greene Avenue Summer Fest



The gang from Nick's Restaurant took the opportunity to raise money for cancer research. From left, Angie Coss, Frank Mernar, Rob Callard, Steven Polegato and Simon Tooley.



Outside Oink Oink Toys, Winnie the Pooh gets a lesson in the board game Pengolo with store employees Caroline Maughan, Kelly Duval and Michelle Rosenher.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The shop owners of Greene Ave. got the season off to a summery start on the weekend of June 19, 20 and 21 when the annual Greene Avenue Summer Festival took place.

"Focus on Greene," as the Greene Avenue Merchants Association called this year's event, was a "celebration of the street" during which many merchants came out to display their wares and to meet clients.

Tony Fagnoli of Tony's Shoes could be seen on the sidewalk outside his store roasting hot dogs to raise money for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex in NDG. \$1,600 was gathered for the cause.

Winnie the Pooh made a guest appearance at Oink Oink Toys, where there were lots of activities for kids. At Nick's Restaurant, owner Rob Callard helped raise money for cancer research with colleagues on Team Hope and Gratitude.



Tony (foreground) and Robbie Fagnoli of Tony's Shoes raised \$1,600 for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex by roasting and selling hot dogs.

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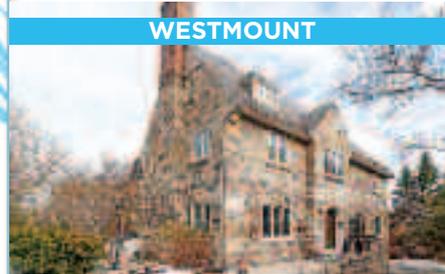
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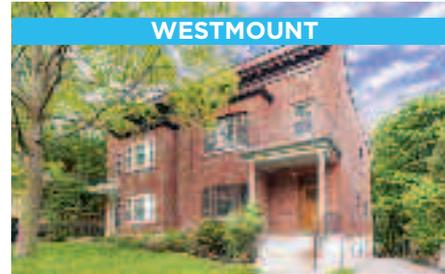
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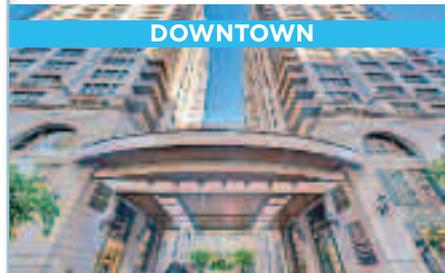
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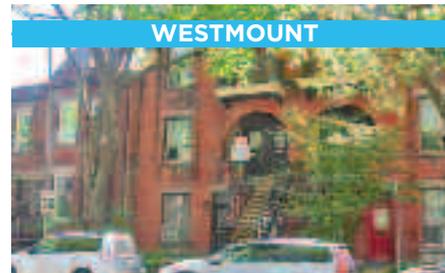
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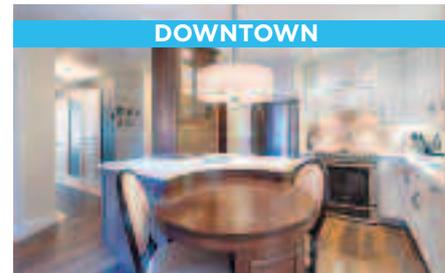
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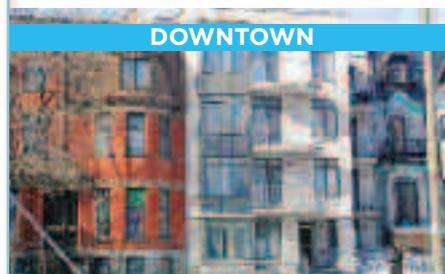
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1455 TOWERS

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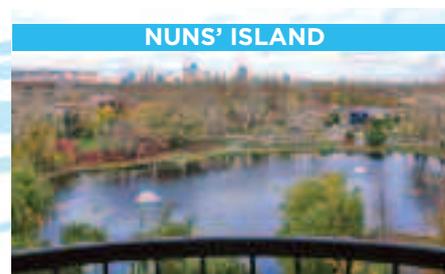
DOWNTOWN



1855 RENE-LEVESQUE

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Bright 2 bdrm condo w/garage

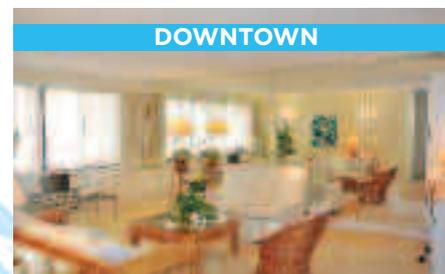
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Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

April transfers: average over \$2M

with two of three sales over \$2 million and one more March 31 sale coming in at \$1.95 million.

The volume is the lowest on record for April, which recorded only four sales in 1982 – when interest rates were close to 17 percent – and up to 32 sales in 1978, only four years earlier.

So far this year, only 24 one- and two-family house sales have been registered, compared with 40 in the first four months last year and 44 the year before.

The highest price this year was just over \$2,900,000 for 482 Roslyn Ave., a huge detached house mid-block between Sherbrooke St. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. That sale was well below its municipal evaluation of \$3,751,400, which brought the average price/valuation ratio below par, to 98 percent, though the other two sales had mark-ups ranging from 20 to 30 percent.

Only one condominium sale was registered in April, at 1250 Greene Ave., corner de Maisonneuve Blvd., which has been fill-

ing up over the past year.

The \$4,582,210 price (which does not include federal and provincial sales taxes) for Apt. 6B is the highest price so far registered, just beating out the \$4,252,493 paid for another sixth-floor apartment last June.

The prices cannot be compared with municipal valuations, of course, since the city has yet to establish the new assessments.

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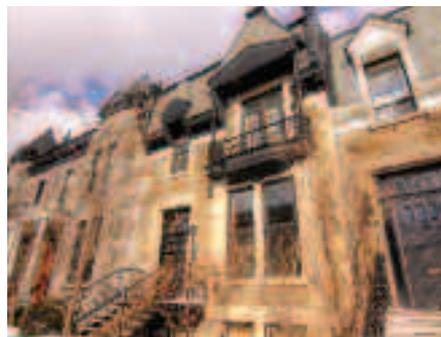
WESTMOUNT | UPPER LANSDOWNE

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WESTMOUNT | WILLOW AV.

Classic detached residence located on quiet cul-de-sac. Walking distance to Victoria Village.



WESTMOUNT | 465 ELM

Located on one of Westmount's most desirable streets, this 4 bedroom Victorian townhouse is a fabulous and bright family home with lots of charm.



CÔTE-SAINT-LUC | 6030 TOMMY DOUGALAS

Impeccable cottage. open space living at its best. inground pool.



CÔTE-SAINT-LUC | 6020 TOMMY DOUGALAS

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Glass departs July 8

Shaar's director of music leaving after 24 years

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Stephen Glass, who has been the director of music at Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim synagogue for the past 24 years, has decided to step down from the position and to pursue new activities.

"I came to the conclusion that this had been an incredible journey as I had only expected to be here for two years," Glass, who came to Montreal from the United Kingdom in 1990, said in an interview with the *Independent* last week.

"My feeling now is that the opportunities that I've had, and the chances to change people's lives and to contribute have finally come to a pinnacle," he added. "That, combined with the feeling that I've had so many great challenges, which is really what I love, made me feel this was the right time to look for other professional challenges."

Glass said that since word



After 24 years, Stephen Glass, Shaar Hashomayim's Director of Music, is stepping down to pursue other activities.

started to spread of his leaving, people have asked him whether he's returning to England. "That's not my plan - I love Montreal," he maintained. "Unless something else comes along, this is still my home."

"People are assuming that I'm going to look for another job at another synagogue, but that's not the plan either," he continued. "I genuinely want to just step back, and do a little stock taking and decide whether I want to pursue new opportunities in Jewish music or music in general, or even the possibility of pursuing something in a different field."

On June 14, Shaar Hashomayim held a Shabbat in tribute to Stephen Glass's 24 years of service. Some of his more notable accomplishments during that time were five multi-media concerts with symphony orchestra and chorus in the main sanctuary. They celebrated Shaar Hashomayim's 150th, 160th and

165th anniversaries, as well as the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the founding of the state of Israel.

And on July 8, at the conclusion of one of Glass's last official tasks for the synagogue, Shaar Hashomayim will be releasing a set of CD recordings containing more than two hours (48 tracks) of the congregation's greatest High Holy Day music.

The project, begun in 2013, will be the third in a series of CDs called the Music of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. It was recorded at McGill's Schulich School of Music.

Ro'i Azoulay, an Israeli musician and conductor, will be assuming Glass's duties. He will be arriving at the end of the summer.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Choir of Christ's College (Cambridge, England), Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. \$15 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors. 7:30 pm.

MONDAY, JULY 7

City council meeting at city hall, 8 pm. Ongoing:

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

115 years for library



The Westmount Public Library turned 115 on June 20 and marked the occasion with a small party. Among those in attendance were library director Julie-Anne Cardella, and councillors Nicole Forbes and Rosalind Davis.

Photos courtesy of Wendy Wayling/Westmount Public Library.

Prince Albert square meeting draws crowd



More than 35 residents and merchants turned out June 26 to a city information meeting at the Westmount recreation centre on the final design for the Prince Albert square to be constructed during September. Look for full coverage of this event in next week's *Independent*. Shown above is questioner Denis Biro of Burton Ave.

Photo: Lauren Sweeney

Batshaw Children Needing Homes

Close siblings need a home

A foster home is being sought for eight-year-old Cindy and her two-year-old brother Ken. The siblings are very close and need a home together where they can continue to build on their sibling relationship.

Cindy is engaging, active and loves being around people. She adores her brother and takes her big sister's role seriously. She always wants to take care of him, even though there are adults around to parent him. She has some speech limitations and is on the waiting list for a speech therapist. Academically, she strug-

gles and needs assistance with her homework. At times, Cindy will test the rules but responds well to structure and consistency.

Two-year-old Ken is an adorable toddler who is able to play alone with his toys and equally enjoys playing with other children. However, he needs the structure and supervision that any young child his age requires. He has a good daily routine, a good appetite and sleeps through the night.

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

Changing of the guard at Rotary



The Rotary Club of Westmount has a new president. Now past president Nicola Elkins pins new president James Bouchard at the handover at Victoria Hall June 25. Photo courtesy of The Rotary Club of Westmount.

Branch falls on wires

A large branch from a tree at the rear of 379 Elm Ave. was found to have fallen on electrical wires in the lane between Elm and Wood June 14 at 11:34 am, Public Security officials said. Cars parked nearby were moved and Hydro Westmount crews summoned.

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Our study aims to investigate signs of early cognitive changes and neurodegeneration in aging individuals. The long-term objective of this project is to facilitate the early identification of individuals at high risk of Alzheimer Disease. Participants will be followed yearly for a period of 24 months and will go through yearly magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan and neuropsychological evaluation. **Principal investigator:** Jens Pruessner, Ph.D. (Douglas Research Center, McGill University).

To complete the last phase of our recruitment, we invite the voluntary participation of right handed healthy **MALES aged between 55-75 years**, with no past or present history of neurological, psychological or severe medical conditions, and no contra-indication for MRI (pacemaker, aneurysm clip, heart/vascular clip, prosthetic valve, metal prosthesis, claustrophobia, metal fragments).

Procedure: Yearly involvement includes 2 sessions (for a total of 5 hours per year) at the Brain Imaging Center of the Douglas Mental Health Institute and the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging (MSCA). You will be compensated for your time and inconvenience.

Contact: If you are interested in participating, please call **514-761-6131 ext. 3298** and leave a voicemail, or email us at **aging.study.mcsa@gmail.com**

Mars playing kitten games



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Mars often has a cute "you caught me" look on his tiny face, in the middle of an exploration or a game.

This grey and white multi-patterned domestic shorthair is only four months old. He has been in the care of Gerdy's Rescue since he was brought to the Hudson Pet Fair in an effort to find a rescue to take him. He was initially found by his rescuers under a step outdoors at a very young age. He is growing fast, has received his kitten vaccines and juvenile healthcare, and he will be neutered shortly. Mars is a very affectionate little fellow, looking forward to growing up in a loving home, with a family that likes to cuddle and play with him.

For more information on Mars, please contact Gerdy at Gerdy's Rescue on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org. You will also find more information on him on the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue.org.



Interesting finds

Just a note to share a great new contact we made during our Gerdy's pet awareness day hosted by Little Bear Pet Supplies on June 21.

Jennifer Beauchemin is the talented designer and creator behind Wiggle Bumz handcrafted dog apparel. She joined us to feature her wonderful line of sturdy nylon and silk embroidered collars, harnesses, martingales and leashes for cats and dogs of all sizes.

Her custom-made and ready-made leashes are progressive with the option of lined handles to avoid slip and burn, as well as the addition of traffic stoppers to option short-leash control at a moment's notice.

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Flash mob against elder abuse



Members of the Contactivity Centre, along with members of the elder abuse awareness group RECAA (Respecting Elders: Communities Against Abuse), formed a flash mob at Alexis Nihon on June 13, to the surprise and delight of passers-by. The seniors kicked up their heels and danced, and performed enactments of both positive and negative examples of how seniors are or should be treated. June 15 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, but activities to raise awareness were spread throughout the month. Contactivity Centre has 550 very active members and also organizes volunteers to assist more frail or shut-in seniors in Westmount.

Photo: Lori Calman.

Police Report

Sunglasses stolen from four Westmount cars

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.

After weeks of dwindling car break-ins, Westmount suffered a mini-resurgence of vehicle thefts over the last two weeks, with items reportedly stolen from a quartet of cars in the city between June 18 and 24.

The four incidents all involved a common item: sunglasses left in the car.

According to Station 12 constable Stephan Laperrière, the theft of sunglasses has been on the rise in the last couple of years as thieves target high-name brands like Gucci and Prada.

"Some people have sunglasses that are worth a lot of money, so it's something that suspects might be looking for when summer starts. Then [the suspect] can either re-sell them quite easily or even keep them for themselves," said Laperrière, who couldn't specify what brands of sunglasses were taken in each incident.

The first incident reportedly occurred on the evening of June 18 on Sherbrooke near Wood, with a pair of sunglasses and

\$6 in change taken from a car. Two more break-ins were reported overnight between June 20 and 21, one on Clarke and the other on nearby Anworth, with sunglasses again taken from the cars.

None of the first three victims reported having had their car windows broken, a departure from the smash-and-grab incidents that plagued the city this spring.

"There was no signs of forced entry, so it's possible the victims left their doors unlocked," said Laperrière.

However, the suspects in the final incident allegedly resorted to the more brazen and destructive approach. On June 24, two individuals reportedly smashed the windows of a car on Sherbrooke and Victoria and stole \$1,500 worth of luggage plus personal items, including sunglasses.

According to Laperrière, a local witness saw the break-in, but was unable to provide an accurate physical description of the suspects to police.

Clarification: The bank that was robbed on June 13 ("Man holds up Sherbrooke St. Bank of Montreal," June 24, p. 22) was the Bank of Montreal at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor.



Westmount Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

This month Ivan Markovic's remarkable paper sculptures dominated Galerie D'Este, while Yehouda Chaki's stylized paintings reigned supreme at Galerie de Bellefeuille. Both exhibitions included an element of surprise – Markovic's use of colour and Chaki's figurative paintings.

Markovic at Galerie D'Este

On the Fringe featured Ivan Markovic's meticulously crafted paper sculptures. As the name suggests, his subjects include those who live on the fringe of society. But the title also reflects the fringe-like effect created by paper layers pasted on wire forms or copper tubing.

One small sculpture depicts *The Girl from Saskatoon* who, cup in hand, solicits funds from passers-by. Others with blue, yellow or orange details, exude a vitality. For *Eddy and Grace (a.k.a. The Scavengers)*, a young couple carrying empty bottles walks briskly, their dog in tow.

Markovic's patchwork technique suggests human resilience as well as fragility. For the large sculpture *The Ruffian II*, a young girl grips a rock behind her back. Almost monochromatic, the figure is contemporary, but her defiant stance conjures up *Les Misérables* and is timeless.

Markovic's unexpected colours create individuality and optimism rather than pathos. His work can be found at Galerie D'Este at 1329 Greene Ave. After August 1, the gallery will be located at 4396 St Laurent.

Chaki at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Westmounter Yehouda Chaki's recent exhibition features distinctive landscapes, floral bouquets and figurative studies. Painted in oil with loose brushstrokes against colourful shapes, Chaki creates unexpected patterns of colour and texture throughout each work.

In *Window 1408*, flowers and a vase's floral pattern merge against a mottled background. In *Blue Sky 1412*, rolling orange hills serve as a backdrop for three dark cypress trees. Using detail to establish distance, the first tree is painted with

Chaki and Markovic: the art of surprise



Ivan Markovic, *The Ruffian II*.

orange, green and grey leaves, the second, with less detail and the third, only as silhouette.

For *Nona 1335-w*, a woman is posed with arms raised above her head against shapes that suggest an exterior scene. With elements closest to the viewer painted in detail with bold strokes of textured colour, the figure merges with the background. Set within an angled black frame, the scene is fluid and dynamic.

Chaki's distinctive palette and application of detail commands attention. Each subject, whether a vase of flowers, landscape or figure, is not just a shape, but a complex and interesting interaction of



Yehouda Chaki's *Nona 1335-w*.

lines and colour. Paintings from *Chaki 2014* can be seen at Galerie de Bellefeuille, now at 1366 and 1367 Greene Ave.

Art in transition

In these exhibitions, surprise merges with predictability to create interesting art. Both Markovic and Chaki are

recognized and acclaimed for distinctive style or medium. Yet, Markovic's added colour and Chaki's rotund figures create both viewer surprise and delight.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her at blackheajea@gmail.com

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*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Julie and Denis Brott welcomed guests to the Marriott Chateau Champlain for the annual Montreal Chamber Music Festival Gala, *La Trompette en or*. Always an eagerly-anticipated event, the evening was sold out. World-renowned trumpeter **Jens Lindemann** performed along with pianist **Paul Shrofel**, bassist **Morgan Moore** and drummer **Jim Doxas**.



David Kostiuk and Jill de Villafranca.



Tony and Pam Layton.

A nice touch to the soirée was added by the graciousness of Westmounter **Jill de Villafranca**, attending with her husband **David Kostiuk**. Jill owns the piano of Julie's father, **Alexander McKay**, an amateur pianist, and loaned it for the occasion of the gala.

As always, the meal was spectacular, starting with *foie gras*, cherry tomatoes and bocconcini brochettes, spanakopita and chicken satay with teriyaki sauce. The mouth-watering dinner included a smoked salmon mousse, red wine and rose-

A chamber full of music



From left, back row: Michael Boer, Marcel Côté, Denis Brott, Michael McAdoo and Jenns Lindemann; front row: Catherine Emond and Line Beauchamp.

mary-braised lamb, garden vegetables and truffle-infused mashed potatoes. Dessert was a divine raspberry charlotte with chocolate.

Westmounters enjoying the evening included **Pamela and Anthony Layton**, PWL Capital Inc.; Westmount city councillor **Theodora Samiotis** and her husband **Michael McAdoo**, vice president at Bombardier Aeronautique; **Fran and Reuben Croll**, Individual Investment Corporation; provincial legislators **Jacques Chagnon** and **Line Beauchamp**; **John Parisella**, executive director, major fundraising campaign, HEC Montréal; **Stephanie Azrieli**, **Barbara Bronfman**, **Lawrence Moquette**, managing director Punda Inc., and **Hakam Hmid-**



Fran and Reuben Croll and Julie Brott.

douch, president of Mabicanada.

The elegant evening raised \$114,000, which will go to assuring the continuance of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival.

Trent to perform with Repercussion Theatre July 8

Mayor Peter Trent will recite the prologue to Shakespeare's *Henry V* at Repercussion Theatre's production of *Harry the King* July 8 scheduled as "opening night" in Westmount Park. It starts place at 6:30 pm.

"It's something I learned by heart when I was eight years old," Trent said of the prologue, adding: "My mother was a great Shakespeare fan."

The show is billed as being "the adven-

turous tale of a rebellious prince who grows up to become one of England's most revered kings.... This is a play about leadership and honour; about fathers and sons; about love and laughter; and about fighting for what you believe in, despite impossible odds."

It will preview in Westmount Park July 7 and take place again July 9, but Trent will not present his recitation at those times.

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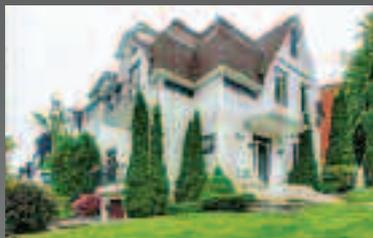
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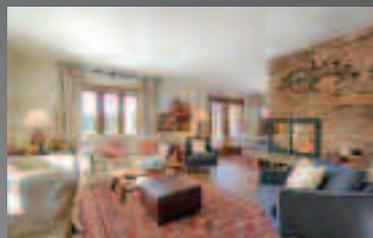
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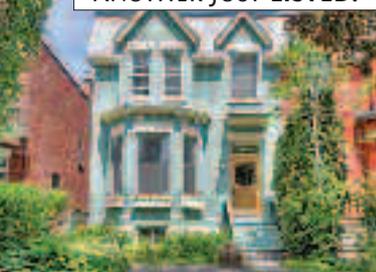
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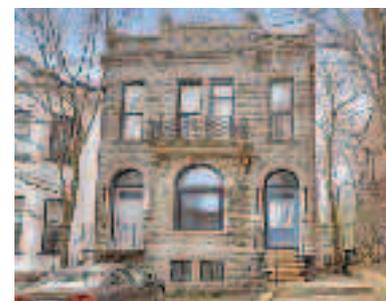
Westmount Adj., 3035 Cedar Ave. Worthy of the pages of Wallpaper Magazine, feast your eyes on the ULTIMATE in sleek, urban design in a magnificently restored townhouse. **\$1,450,000**



Westmount, 649 Roslyn Ave. Here's an OPPORTUNITY! Detached, updated 1904 home featuring central A/C, 2 car garage, 4+1 bedrooms, 3½ baths! **\$1,699,000**



Westmount, 118 Lewis Ave. ADORABLE 1894 Victorian townhouse. Renovated kitchen, bathrooms, finished basement, etc. Great value! **\$664,000**



Westmount, 510 Lansdowne Ave. GREAT location! Ultra spacious, 3 bedroom upper duplex undivided condo. 10'6 ceilings. Amazing VALUE at this price! **\$575,000**



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Westmount, 3764 The Boulevard Ideal executive rental. A lovely, detached stone house well located in mid level Westmount. Occupancy July 1st. **\$4,700 / month**



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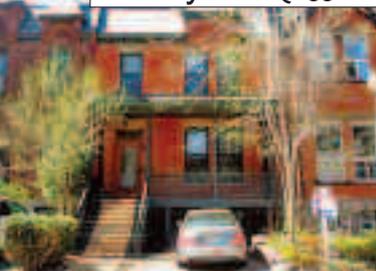


Westmount, 3241 Cedar Ave. Magnificent, quality built 1926 "Spanish Eclectic" home. 5 bedrooms. SPACIOUS, sun filled rooms. PRIME location. WELL priced! **\$1,298,000**



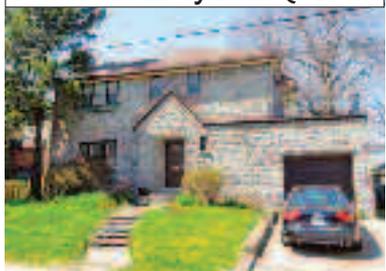
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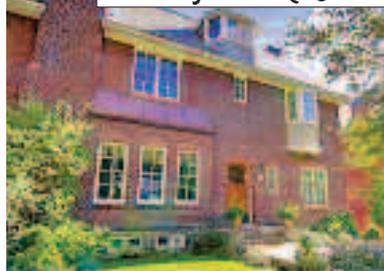
Westmount, 412 Metcalfe Ave. DELIGHTFUL townhouse. **\$1,198,000**

Listed & SOLD by Brian @ 100%!



Westmount adj., 5015 Glenclair Ave. (Circle Road area) Best location! DETACHED. **\$875,000**

SOLD by Brian @ 98%!



Westmount, 3238 The Boulevard Great value! **\$1,475,000**

SOLD by Brian IN 1 day @ 92%!



Westmount, 67 Columbia Ave. Delightful 1894 Victorian cottage. **\$715,000**

SOLD @ 97%!



Westmount, 636 Belmont Ave. Impeccably reno'd period home. **\$1,499,000**

#6 in Quebec for Re/Max 2012*

#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**