

Nicholas Hoare to close



Nicholas Hoare will close on December 31. See story, p. 3.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Vanguard to move



See story, p. 3.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 16

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Comin' Up p. 20

Lansdowne/Glen closes down

de Maisonneuve bike path stays open, 'weather dependent'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's bike path along de Maisonneuve will remain open again this winter except during bad weather conditions, city director general Duncan Campbell said last week. The route along Lansdowne and Glen Rd., however, is closed as of November 15. That's the same date that the bicycle path network in Montreal was announced to shut down.

As for the de Maisonneuve bike path, Westmount will clean it according to the regular snow removal schedules for the street employed last winter, Campbell said.

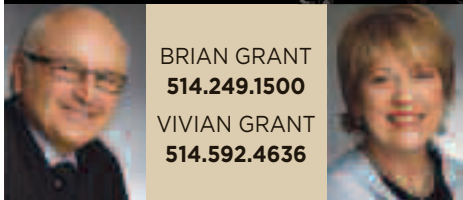
"I think people will still use it even if the NDG portion past the Vendôme station is not open," he said. This is where road construction is under way.

Westmount will continue to post any weather closings on Twitter and put up appropriate signage when the path becomes too dangerous, Campbell said. "A lot of it is weather dependent."

Parking meters east of Greene on the bike path will also remain hooded as they have been for two years. This represents a budgetary loss to the city of about \$150,000 a year, he estimated.

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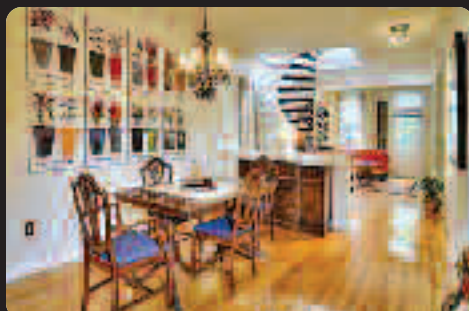
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Greene bookstore open till December 31

Nicholas Hoare closing up landmark shop for good

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 40 years, another landmark Greene Ave. bookstore is coming to the end of a long last chapter.

The Westmount outlet of Nicholas Hoare Books will close its doors for good on New Year's Eve, according to Hoare, who founded the book chain and business that bears his name.

Announcing the decision to the *Independent* last week, he said that despite a six-month stay of execution broadcast in June, "the verdict is now clear."

"The book business is on a free fall," he said. "The Greene Ave. store is the loose clog in the wheel," of his business that will now be centred around the larger Toronto store and the library wholesale business.

Nevertheless, he said, the warehouse in NDG will remain in operation "at least for now," and the business on Greene Ave. will continue "flat out right up to the last

moment." With the approaching gift-giving season, he said, the store's inventory "has never been greater." After closure, the remaining inventory is to be transferred to the warehouse.

"We're going out with all guns blazing," he said.

Greene was first retail outlet

It was on Greene that Hoare opened his first retail outlet in 1974, three years after starting to carve out a niche market in British and speciality books to supply libraries across Canada.

From the basement of the former Kastel art gallery at 1368 Greene, he expanded within 10 years to the building next door at number 1366, which now also includes a large music section. Hoare also opened outlets downtown at Ogilvy's and in Ottawa and Toronto – soon to be the sole retail survivor.

As the effect of the internet and e-books

began to take a toll on the traditional book industry and the population base in Westmount began aging, Hoare threw down the gauntlet to customers in June asking them to help keep the store viable.

With guidance from Mayor Peter Trent, he recalled, "We gave everyone leisurely notice to help keep the store open as a cultural contribution to the community. Our landlord was more than generous in agreeing not to raise our rent. So we had

that cushion to work with" (see June 12, p. 1).

But in the end, he said, "Closing is the lesser of two evils," given the current state of the traditional book market. None of the 10 employees will remain with the company, he said.

"Obviously I'm very sorry but not surprised," he said. "I'm philosophical. Things are meant to happen."

Vanguard moves next June, building sale in progress

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 20 years in the community, the Westmount campus of Vanguard Schools will move at the end of June 2013 to a new, larger site that can also accommodate the two other campuses, which are currently located in Laval and St. Laurent, said Vanguard director general Carolyn Coffin-Caputo last week. The sale of the building at Metcalfe and Hillside remains in progress.

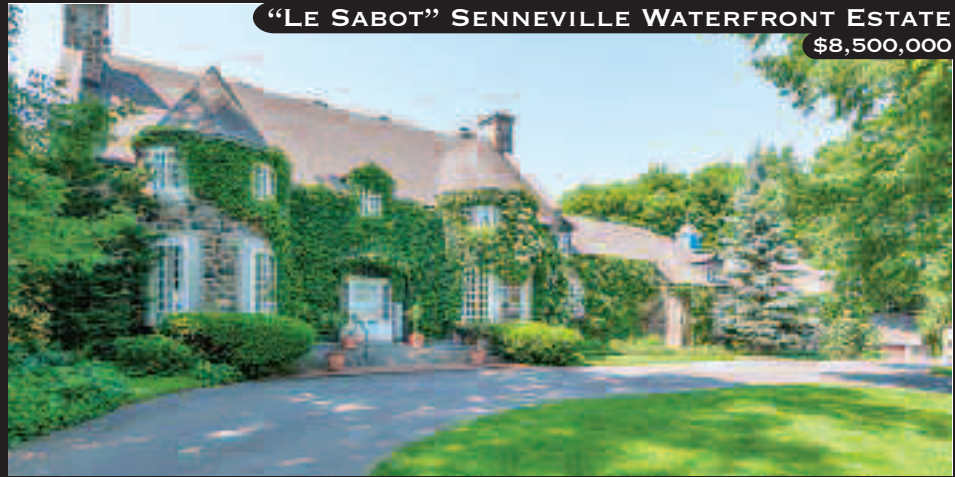

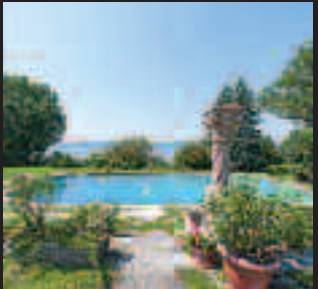

"We have a signed offer," she said. But the buyer is in the "due diligence" stage, and she could not divulge additional details, she explained.

The building is currently zoned commercial, according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. This permits many possible uses including offices, schools, parking facilities, daycares, nursing homes and seniors' residences. Regular residential use is also permitted, including multi-family dwellings such as condos.

The new consolidated Vanguard site is in St. Laurent at 5935 Côte de Liesse Rd., Coffin-Caputo said.

It's a six-storey facility that originally housed a Grey Nuns' orphanage dating back to 1912 with an addition in 1920. Sold in 1973, *continued on p. 21*

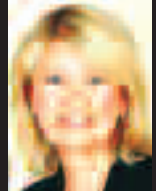

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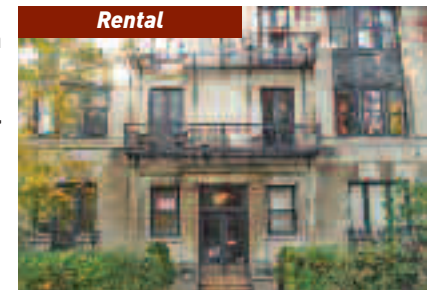
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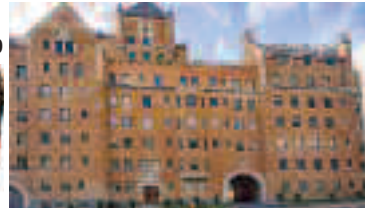


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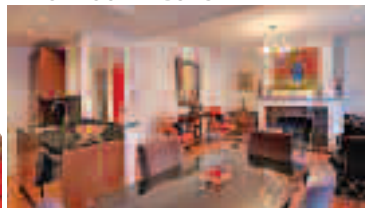


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Federal riding commissioners hear more local briefs

WMA, WHA speak out

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two long-established volunteer groups had their day at hearings November 12 into changes in the name and alignment of the proposed new federal riding in which Westmount would be located. The current Westmount-Ville Marie constituency would disappear under the re-alignment.

Briefs from the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) and the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) accepted the new boundaries but opposed the removal of Westmount's name from the riding as did a city brief presented the week before to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission hearings by Mayor Peter Trent (see November 13, p. 8).

All three briefs stated that the proposed name of "Wilder Penfield" did not identify Westmount or the other communities in the redistribution. These include NDG and Montreal West.

Both the WHA and WMA briefs noted that a riding's name is repeatedly identi-

fied in parliamentary sessions where federal representatives are referred to by the name of their constituency.

Presented by WMA president Peter Starr, the brief proposed the name of "Westmount-Notre Dame de Grâce." Starr was accompanied by WMA board member Maureen Kiely.

Leading off the morning session of hearings, Jane Martin, the historical association's archivist and board member, presented her group's argument based on "history, geography, practicality, identity and pride."

'Resonates with history'

"The name Westmount resonates with history on the island and beyond," it states. "We view our electoral riding name as an inviolable part of our identity on both the local and federal level."

Martin told the *Independent* that most of the other briefs she heard opposed the boundaries of the new riding, which, for many, fragmented cultural, ethnic, religious and socio-economic sectors.

Henrietta Antony building sold to Westmounter Azrieli



Henrietta Antony, left, owner of Henrietta Antony antiques located in the heritage building at 4192 St. Catherine St., poses in her shop with new owner of the building, Westmounter Sharon Azrieli, on November 16. Antony has owned and operated her shop since 1978. The building was constructed in 1904 for the Royal Bank and was designed by renowned architect Edward Maxwell. Azrieli is not certain of her plans for the building but said she wants to maintain its integrity. Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE BIKE PATH THIS WINTER?

The *Gazette* reported on November 12 that the city of Montreal asked Bixi to shut down operations on November 15, “the day the city bike paths are shut.”

So what are Westmount's plans for the bike path for the winter? And at what cost to Westmount taxpayers? For how many users? And how about the city's legal responsibility and liability for keeping “open” a path that does not meet standards (Genivar confirmed this), and worse, does not have any physical barrier to protect cyclists because the bollards will be removed?

Can anyone answer these simple questions?

IRWIN EDELSTEIN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

* Editor's note: Please see story, p. 1.

DISSUADE COMMUTERS FROM GOING THROUGH WESTMOUNT

A November 13 letter (“Reducing Sherbrooke to one lane ludicrous,” p. 6) claims the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association's proposal to reduce Sherbrooke St. traffic capacity is ludicrous.

Contrary to the author's assertion, our proposal would not eliminate all cars from

Westmount, but simply help reduce through-traffic (commuters cutting through Westmount on their way downtown) along east-west streets from the current 66,000 vehicles a day (over half of the total 111,000 cars per day in our city) to, say, 33,000 per day.

Where would those commuters go? Since nearly half of the through-traffic originates from locations like Ville St. Laurent, Laval, etc. (those drivers exit Decarie at Sherbrooke St to go downtown), some could continue along the Ville Marie Expressway. Others could switch to public transportation, as many did last summer during the road construction. We assume half would continue to drive through our city daily.

Our proposal is consistent with the Master Traffic Plan's goal of reducing traffic and would also improve the visual appeal of Vic village by reducing the space allocated to motor vehicles (currently about 65 percent of Sherbrooke St.) and would add a much needed bike path so taxpaying residents who choose to cycle could do so safely.

Since car traffic volume is significantly lower outside morning and evening rush-hours, eliminating two lanes would not seriously affect drivers outside those hours.

It is also worth noting that Westmount currently has about 125 kilometres of safe sidewalks for pedestrians and about 125

kilometres of safe road lanes for drivers, but only 4.3 kilometres of safe paths for cyclists (less than 2 percent of the total) even though 20 percent of taxpaying residents cycle regularly and 28 percent of households do not own a car.

Adding a bike path along the Vic village segment of Sherbrooke St. would help redress that imbalance.

DAN LAMBERT, PRESIDENT OF THE
WESTMOUNT WALKING AND CYCLING
ASSOCIATION

SPEED UP FLOW OF TRAFFIC – THAT'S HOW TO HANDLE IT

Two diametrically different approaches can be considered for dealing with automobile traffic in the city, much of which is in the transit on the main east-west streets through Westmount during peak traffic hours.

A suggested strategy that makes no sense is to somehow inhibit the flow of such traffic in the hope that it will deter people from driving their cars through Westmount. That would just create traffic jams and air pollution from exhaust fumes, all of which would be even more to the disadvantage of our residents than to motorists passing through Westmount.

The best solution would be to take measures that would speed up the flow of traffic and get the vehicles in transit out of the city as fast as possible; measures such as synchronized traffic lights, and during peak traffic hours not allowing parking, stopping at the curb and left turns all on the heavy-traffic side of the main east-west streets; and not allowing deliveries by commercial vehicles on either side of those streets during peak traffic hours.

Consideration could also be given to allocating the opened-up “no parking” lanes for exclusive right of passage by buses, taxis and emergency vehicles, including ambulances and tow trucks, during peak traffic hours.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

BELL BILKS CUSTOMERS ON BILLS

I look forward to Westmount-Ville Marie's MP Marc Garneau speaking up on the issue of billing customers for receiving paper bills – opposing the practice.

I receive a \$2 charge for receiving my Bell bill, all the while receiving unwanted Bell junk mail for a TV service I have no interest in receiving. Being charged for receiving a paper bill is akin to highway robbery. It's no different than receiving service while they pick your pocket.

The New Democrats have started a campaign they call “Stop Pay to-Pay Fees,” and I encourage all Westmounters and Montrealers to sign their petition at www.ndp.ca/stop-pay-to-payfees.

And whilst I am all in favour of reducing paper consumption and reducing tree clear-cutting, I am vehemently against being bilked.

Only when Canadians raise their voices will these predatory practices stop.

JACK LOCKE, STAYNER ST.

REDUCE CONSTRUCTION FROM 11 TO 8 HOURS/DAY

On November 26, Westmount city council will hold a public meeting about amendments to the noise by-law. The proposed changes, however, will do nothing to shorten the hours when heavy construction equipment – jackhammers, bulldozers, generators and so on – can be used, which is currently from 7 am to 6 pm, 11 hours a day, 55 hours a week.

At the November 5 council meeting, it was suggested that there was no need to shorten these hours, because workers usually go home at 3 or 4 pm. As someone who has had the misfortune to live next to a construction site that, for the past five months, has taken full advantage of the permitted 11-hour day, I can report that the current law creates misery for residents.

A person who works from nine to five wakes up to a wall of noise, leaves home with a headache and comes back to yet more noise. A child, like my two-year-old, who spends the hours of nine to four at school or daycare will still spend four hours a day exposed to noise, which frequently exceeds 60 decibels.

Someone who works from home, like myself, often finds that they simply can't. During summer, it is impossible to open windows during the hottest part of the day.

I warn all Westmounters that a similar construction project may be started on their street; when it does, they will wonder, like me, how our “primarily residential community” allows residents to be driven out of their own homes by such noise.

I urge my fellow citizens to ask that the city reduce the hours when heavy construction equipment noise is permitted to a more sane eight hours a day.

TIMOTHY SLONOSKY, REDFERN AVE.

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Sedgwick: Discussing emergency preparedness timely

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Would the average Westmount household be prepared to spend 72 hours without water or electricity if a natural calamity like the week-long 1998 ice storm swept through the area?

That's something Westmount Public Security director David Sedgwick thinks about quite often.

While the city of Westmount had an emergency preparedness plan in place at the time and has improved upon it, Sedgwick said, he believes it is also the responsibility of each household to be ready for an emergency.

Addressing members of the Healthy City Project during a breakfast-hour presentation on November 13 at Victoria Hall, Sedgwick said the issue is timely given the unstable weather patterns that have been producing meteorological phenomena like Hurricane Sandy.

While people will often have advance warning that a major storm is on the way, giving them time to stock up on necessities to weather it, he said there is no telling when a catastrophe like an earthquake will happen "and that's one of the reasons why



Westmount Public Security director David Sedgwick shows members of the Healthy City Project items from emergency preparedness on November 13 at Victoria Hall.

people have to be prepared."

A sample emergency kit Sedgwick had put together was designed to contain enough necessities to keep the average household without power or water self-sufficient for 72 hours. The idea is to keep everything together in a backpack or duffle bag and ready to be pulled out should an evacuation get under way. The kit should include enough water for three days, based on a minimum of two liters per day per person, he explained.

Some of the other items included: a first-aid kit, fluorescent light sticks, baking soda (to extinguish small fires), personal hygiene products like toothpaste, toothbrush, bathroom tissue and hand sanitizer, candles, work gloves, a dynamo-operated

radio/flashlight, insurance documents and credit card information.

A comprehensive list can be found on the city website, by clicking on the Westmount Public Security page, then on the link "Emergency Planning Guide."

Street sweeper blocked after truck ticketed

Workers at a house on Roslyn Ave. blocked a city street-cleaning machine October 8 after a parking inspector ticketed their truck for parking in the street maintenance area, Public Security officials said.

The workers were described as upset by the ticket even though they failed to move their vehicle when the sweeper went up the street hooting its horn to signal its approach.

The matter was finally resolved peacefully on arrival of public safety officers and the workers returned to the house north of Sherbrooke.

Trent signs – how many times?



Lyda Letacq, a former Westmounter who now lives in NDG, was among many local residents – and others – attending a book signing by Mayor Peter Trent of his book *The Demerger Delusion* at the Westmount Public Library November 13, and later at a reception at Victoria Hall. A total of 137 books were sold in English at the events by Nicholas Hoare Books on Greene Ave. "It was quite good for a launch but not unexpected," said David McDerby, store manager. Another 17 were purchased in French. Among those turning up were retired employees, suburban mayors and players in the merger and demerger issues, including the Superior Court judge, Maurice Lagacé, who ruled against Westmount and its partners in the fight to stop merger Bill 170.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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Rabbi Grushcow 'discovers community' as she settles in to her new job at the Temple

BY MARLENE EISNER

The new senior rabbi at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is no stranger to Montreal. The 37-year-old Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, who was born in Ottawa and grew up in Toronto, lived in Montreal in the mid 1990s while she attended McGill University.

This past July, Grushcow, along with her spouse Rabbi Andrea Myers, and their daughters, Arielle, 8, and Alice, 2, moved from New York, where for nine years she was the rabbi at a Reform synagogue in Manhattan, to Montreal to begin another phase of their lives as they joined the Westmount community.

"We love being in Westmount," Grushcow revealed recently during an interview in her office at the Temple's Sherbrooke and Elm location. "We thought it would be a great place to raise the girls, and we've been having a great time discovering the community and the neighbourliness of everyone."

Grushcow spent the summer familiarizing herself with her congregants, who

number about 900 households that follow a Reform philosophy of Judaism.

"In Canada, it's really more unusual for a woman to be a rabbi, but in the US, not so much," she said.

There are a number of different branches of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Modern Orthodox, Chabad/Lubavitch and Hasidim. Reform Judaism maintains that religious customs and traditions should be modernized to be compatible with the surrounding times.

Grushcow, who grew up in a home that followed a Conservative form of the religion, said she is attracted to the Reform movement's philosophy of inclusion. "I made my way to Reform because of its inclusiveness, its openness to Jewish tradition," she said.

"We continue to have people who choose their own path. There is the primary question of how to be a Jew in a modern world and live one's Jewish life with integrity. You can be religious without being traditional."

The 130-year-old Temple is the oldest



Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, the new senior rabbi, in her office at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on October 26.

liberal synagogue in Canada, and "has always been a trailblazer in terms of inclusiveness," said Grushcow.

"It's always tried to say 'yes' when others say 'no.' There's so much that we share with other organizations in Montreal, but the Temple is distinctive."

The road to becoming a rabbi was scholarly and introspective: After attaining a BA in political science and a minor in Jewish studies from McGill, she was named a Rhodes Scholar shortly thereafter, went to Oxford, where she earned a master's degree in philosophy in Judaism and Christianity in the Greco-Roman world and then a doctorate in philosophy. She was ordained in 2003 at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City.

She is content with her calling. "It's holy work, and it's a privilege to do it."

On October 23, the Temple held a formal installation for Grushcow as senior rabbi. She replaced rabbi emeritus Leigh Lerner, who retired last summer after 23 years as the congregation's senior rabbi.

As she and her family settle in, Grushcow said she is "dusting off" her "Ontario high school French" and looking forward to becoming part of Montreal's unique tapestry.

Her vision for the Temple? "To become a centre for many people's lives at many stages ... We have a great location and building, and history and community. It's just exciting. I want to be a part of the community."

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Nolan receives medal from Garneau



Photo courtesy of Pilar Giron

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau affixes a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on recipient Eddy Nolan at Roslyn School on November 14 in front of an assembly of students. Nolan, who is back working almost full-time at Roslyn as its caretaker after time away when he was suffering from cancer, received the medal in recognition of his fundraising efforts for the Terry Fox Foundation. Garneau was visiting as part of a UNICEF initiative "Bring your MP to School Day," where members of parliament visit the schools in their ridings and talk to children about their rights. It was a non-partisan initiative and part of the Canada's National Child Day celebration in November, according to Irma Alvarez of Roslyn Home and School. Garneau has an interest in the topic. He presented a private member's bill for the creation of a national commissioner of Children and Young Persons in parliament on October 2. (See October 16, p. 10.)

Westmount's EMSB schools continue to grow

By MICHAEL MOORE

Westmount High, Roslyn and Westmount Park all posted strong enrolment gains this year as the city's trio of EMSB schools continue to avoid the enrolment exodus plaguing the school board.

All three schools registered double-digit increases to its student body size from last year, according to the school board's 2012-13 enrolment report released at its October 30 board meeting.

"At the end of the day it comes down to: what are our students' needs and how are we going to meet those needs," said Roslyn principal Tina Spiridigliozzi. "We really work hard to market our school and let people know all of the good things going on."

Continuing its recent trend of modest but consistent growth, Westmount High's student population grew to 841 students for the 2012-13 school year, up from the 828 last year, a jump of 1.5 percent. The jump marked another expansion for the high school, which posted enrolments of 823 in 2010-11 and 812 in 2009-10.

Westmount High's continued population growth represents a rarity for the EMSB's increasingly beleaguered secondary school system as parents opt to send their children to the private sector or to French-language alternatives.

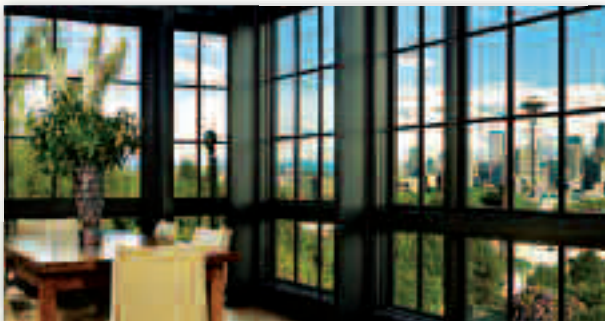
Total enrolment in the board's secondary schools this year fell to 8,656 students, down 314 from last year, with enrolment decreasing in 12 of the board's 17 high schools. Since 2009-10, the school board's high school population has plummeted by 12 percent.

While not facing as swift a decline as its high school counterparts, the board's elementary school system also continued its enrolment slump, falling by 193 students to 11,085, a drop-off of 1.7 percent.

The elementary enrolment plunge, which forced the closing of three EMSB schools last year, was lessened by strong performances from Westmount's two EMSB elementary schools, Roslyn and Westmount Park, which both continued their upward trend from recent years.

Roslyn's enrolment soared by almost 10 per- *continued on p. 18*

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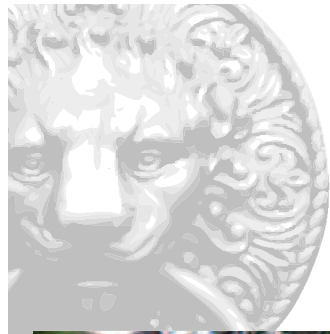
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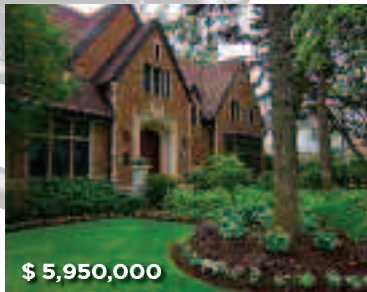
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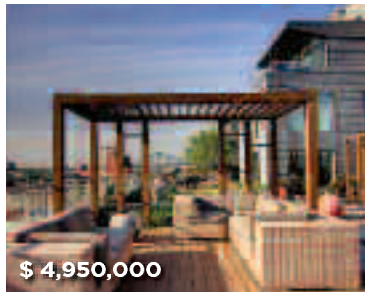
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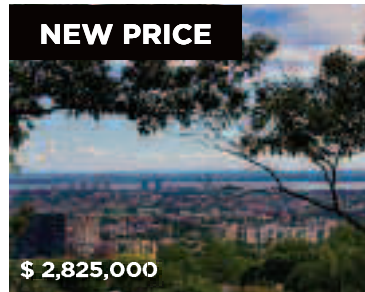
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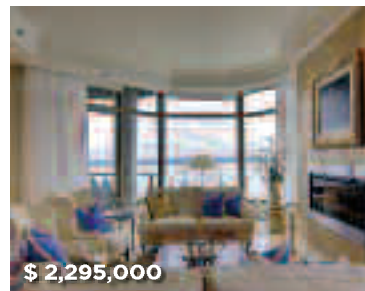
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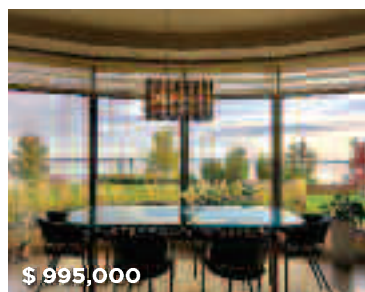
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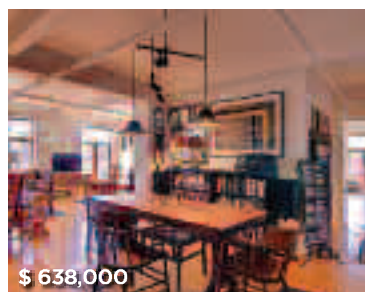
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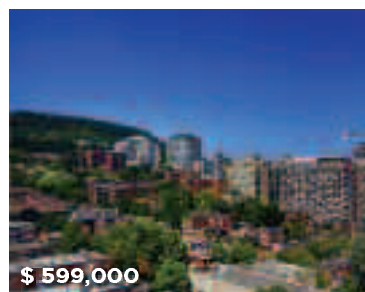
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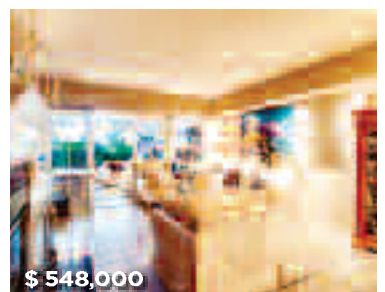
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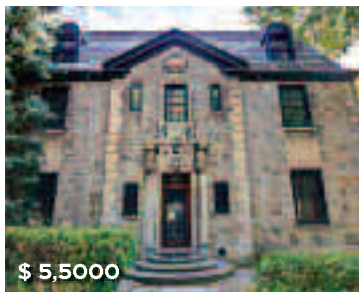
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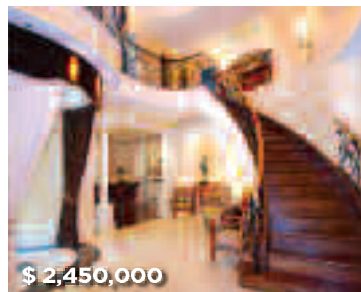
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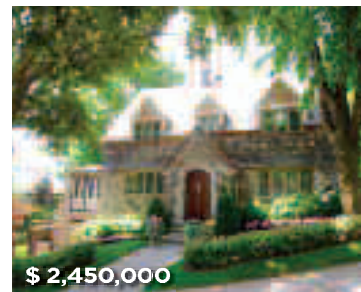
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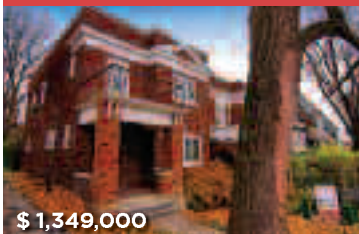
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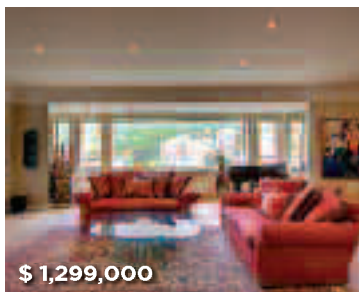
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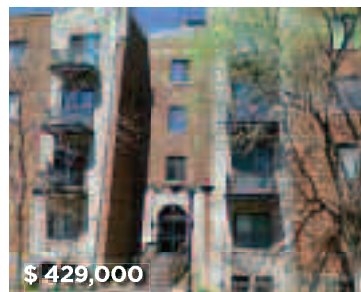
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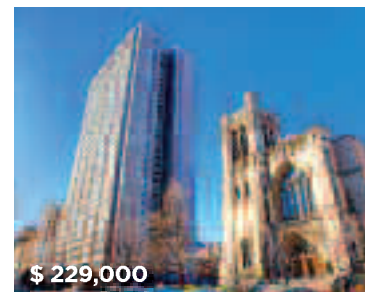
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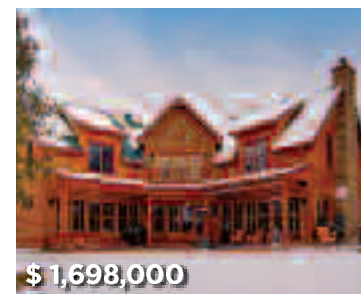


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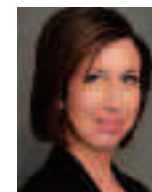
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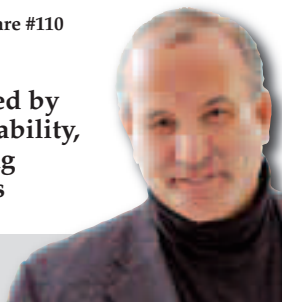
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Station 12 Reports

Centre Greene robbed, wallet stolen at David's Tea

BY ISAAC OLSON

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

The Centre Greene community centre was broken into on November 12, and the burglar or burglars made off with \$100 in cash, according to Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier.

Police still don't know if there was more than one suspect, explained Gauthier, but it is clear that somebody cut the screen window at the front of the building at about 6:30 am. The suspect(s) managed to get the glass window open, enter the building and set off the security alarm, she said.

However, when police responded to the alarm and examined the premises, they didn't notice the cut screen or open window, so they left. In the meantime, somebody entered the centre's office, found the lockbox, took the cash and exited out the back, said Gauthier.

Around 8:40 am, Gauthier said a staff member found the empty lockbox and called 911. At this point, she said, there is no description of the suspect as police are still investigating.

Wallet stolen from purse in tea shop

On November 10 at around 3:15 pm, a woman was enjoying a beverage at David's Tea (located on Sherbrooke St. near Victoria Ave.) with a friend when she was quietly robbed by a light-handed thief, said Gauthier.

The victim, the constable said, hung her purse on the back of her chair. There were only two other women, both in their 30s, in the tea shop at the time. Those two women, she said, are now suspects as somebody left the victim's purse, but took

the victim's wallet.

From there, said Gauthier, the suspect quickly used the victim's credit card to pay for parking and buy items at Chapters book store.

It is important that people keep their purses and bags in sight, said Gauthier. The types of criminals that go after wallets often work as a team, are very fast and will often use the stolen credit cards quickly. She recommends that people keep their bags closed either on the table or in front of their feet, making it nearly impossible for even the fastest hands to steal them unnoticed.

"Unfortunately, there are criminals that do this a lot," said Gauthier. "People need to be more careful in places like coffee shops and restaurants."

Police bust three high-profile car burglars

After a lengthy investigation, Stations 12, 15 and 25, led by members of the SPVM's Module d'action par projet (MAP), nabbed three suspected car burglars red-handed on November 13.

The suspects, explained Constable Adalbert Pimentel, have allegedly been breaking into and burglarizing cars throughout Westmount, NDG, the southwest borough and downtown Montreal. This bust comes as a spike in car break-ins has plagued Westmount and the surrounding communities for several months.

One suspect in particular, 32-year-old Roger Ayala, has been linked to at least nine car break-ins, said Pimentel, and investigators were monitoring the Montreal resident for some time. It is expected, said Pimentel, that Ayala will be charged with as many as 50 car break-ins. He is accused of regularly targeting parking garages and breaking into car after car in each row, said Pimentel, who described the suspect's ap-

proach as "very systematic."

When caught on Mountain St., Ayala was with Jessie Kotak, 27, and Jeremy Sloney, 39, said Pimentel, and they were found to be in possession of burglary tools. Sloney has already faced his preliminary hearing, said Pimentel, and he was not released on bail. Kotak won't face the court until early next year, but, the constable said, Ayala will have to go before a judge on November 28.

In the meantime, investigators are still piecing together the clues that may connect Ayala to other car break-ins. Ayala, he said, is suspected of getting into parking garages of condominiums or apartment buildings either under false pretenses or by breaking in. This is why, noted Pimentel, it's important that residents don't just trust a stranger's tale when he or she is trying to enter a residential building.

Arena work gets early start – and ticket

A complaint from a resident October 10 brought public safety officers to the work site of the city's Westmount recreation centre where construction was already in progress at 7:30 am. The work before 8 am on a Saturday resulted in a \$267 ticket to the contractor, Public Security officials said.

Searching for shelter or nuts?

Public safety officers were called to a house on Church Hill October 8 after a squirrel was found inside. The resident had managed to enclose it in the kitchen where it was found on a cabinet. Officers caught it in a net and released it outside.

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Westmount Art Scene

Schweitzer and Lang: The art of juxtaposition

BY HEATHER BLACK

At the Atwater Library, intricate compositions juxtaposing image and text by John Schweitzer celebrate the centenary of collage. Similarly, Mark Lang reconfigures el-



John Schweitzer "Vallum Hadrianus" series.

ements from well-known paintings into modern art at Galerie de Bellefeuille.

John Schweitzer at the Atwater Library

Schweitzer continues the tradition of Picasso, Braque and Motherwell in this display of prints, original art and constructions. "Anatomy of the Universe" features a 1950s anatomical drawing illustrating human bones and muscles. Centered between the two figures, newspaper clippings are overlaid with fabric, an image of butterflies and the two of hearts playing card. Each added element to the composition redefines the work's meaning.

Schweitzer's delight in everyday ephemera is seen in the graphic patterns of the series "Vallum Hadrianus." In one collage, an antiquities museum ticket, dated 1938, is set against antique wall paper, a large X and an empty blue area. Asymmetric, the composition suggests the dichotomy Hadrian's Wall – of keeping the barbarians in or out. The artist's skill with text either for its graphic quality or literal sense recalls posters from the Bauhaus period.

The 3D construction "Scriptorium" consists of a layer of converging rows of yellow HB pencil stubs fixed to a sketch book. Featuring multiple surfaces, this minimal design relates "the architecture of marking" with the tactile pleasure of holding a pencil.

With the addition of each element of found objects, drawings or constructions, Schweitzer creates new meaning. This collection is displayed until Monday, December 10 on the mezzanine of the Atwater Library at 1200 Atwater Ave.

Mark Lang at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Montrealer Mark Lang integrates familiar images into new and original paintings. A self-portrait of Rembrandt is surrounded by a galaxy of connected nodes in "Rembrandt, Neural Net." Although a modern image, Lang simultaneously acknowledges the Dutch Golden Age and 17th-century inventions of telescopes and microscopes and the scientific contributions of Huygens and van Leeuwenhoek.

For Lang, gallery scenes stimulate experiments in style as well as social com-



Mark Lang "Rhythm, 2012"

mentary. "Rhythm" depicts a young woman against linear art, panels and walls, which frame an elderly man. An interesting graphic with vivid colour bars – and a realistic interior view – Magritte's enigmatic painting of horse and rider, "Le Blanc-seing," is recalled.

Another "Echippus Descendant" features a horse set between two panels of coloured circular outlines. Colour explosions of textured paint recall Gustav Klimt's magical cloaks and robes. A departure for

continued on p. 22

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Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

traffic amidst mindless miles of oh-so-familiar orange construction cones in order to arrive at the McCord Museum's annual wine and food fundraiser on October 18. The event attracted 250 attendees at \$200 a ticket.

Traffic-weary guests soon relaxed with the evening's mood of *la dolce vita*. Greatly helping to bring out smiles, a zippy Vespa scooter at the front door offered a photo op., complete with fan for the verisimilitude of hair blowing in the wind!

Italy was in the spotlight to coincide with the museum's exhibit "Sublime Cities" by Italian photographer **Mimmo Jodice**. Culinary traditions from that country were highlighted with Garofalo pasta, Papille Importations' porchetta and Gattuso cheeses. There was also an oyster bar, courtesy of Joe Beef, and bite-size hors d'oeuvres by Julien-Leblanc Traiteur.

Guests circulated between tasting stations to sample a variety of wines (Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay,

Partygoers fought grinding, gridlocked



Geneviève Burdon and Matthew Oliver.



From left: Monique Jérôme-Forget, Kathryn Muller and Suzanne Sawage.



From left: Julie Dessureault, Elizabeth Gomery and Aphrodite Salas.



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Social, cont'd. from p. 16



Debi and Bill Brownstein.

Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon) recommended by professionals from Treasury Wine Estates. Bottles offered ranged between \$40 and \$60.

Guest sommelier **Bill Zacharkiw**, wine critic for *The Gazette*, offered two 30-minute wine workshops.

Event co-chairs were **Annie Lapointe**, vice president, BMO Capital Markets; and **Elaine Barsalou**, director, Global Invest-

ment Banking, Scotia Capital. Sponsors were *The Gazette*, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and Davies law firm.

Noted amidst the wine lovers were Westmounters **Karma** and **John Hallward**; **Geneviève Burdon**; **Elizabeth Gomery**; **Debi**



Karma and John Hallward.

and **Bill Brownstein**; CTV's **Aphrodite Salas**; and **Maurice Forget**, as well as **Danielle Sauvage**, executive director, Conseil des Arts de Montréal; Arsenal gallerist **Pierre Trahan** with his wife **Anne-Marie**; **Roland Lescure**, executive vice-president and chief investment officer, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, with his wife **Susie O'Reilly**; **Julie Dessureault**; **Matthew Oliver**; the Mc-

Cord Museum's **Suzanne Sauvage**, president and CEO; **Monique Jérôme-Forget**, chair of the board of trustees; and **Kathryn Muller**, executive director, who announced that "the monies raised go towards enhancing the McCord's collections through conservation and restoration. We have set an objective of \$50,000 in support of this mission."

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EMSB enrolment

cont'd. from p. 10

cent, increasing from 506 students a year ago to 556 in 2012-13 – the second largest jump of any EMSB school. The enrolment boom continues the school's recent upswing in enrolment over recent years, including a 6.5 percent bump from 2010-11 to 2011-12.

"Parents sell the school for us," said Spiridigliozzi. "They have a good experience here, and they are happy to share that with other parents possibly shopping for another school themselves."

The city's other EMSB elementary school, Westmount Park, also continued to grow despite the school board's struggles, posting its second straight double-digit increase to its student body after suffering a drop-off in enrolment in 2010-11.

Fourteen more students are attending Westmount Park this year, bringing the school's enrolment up to 345. Coupled with the dozen students who joined the school last year, Westmount Park's enrolment has jumped by over eight percent over the last two years alone.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

• Major General Mike Riddell-Webster, guest of honour for the St. Andrew's Ball, gives a talk to mark **St. Andrew's Day**, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater Ave.). Free.

• **Manoir Westmount's annual bazaar**, noon to 2 pm. Tables include afghans and cushions, seasonal crafts, knitted items (baby sets, hats, scarves, mitts, toys), "nearly new" items, jewelry. Proceeds to benefit Montreal charities. 4646 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.937.3943.

• **CLSC's flu vaccination clinic**, 9:30 am to 6:30 pm at Victoria Hall for the following people residing in its territory: people aged 60 years and older, infants aged 6 to 23 months, people with a chronic illness, caregivers, volunteers and health care workers. Bring Medicare card and wear short sleeves. Info: 514.934.0354.

• **"Bullying Prevention in a Wired World"** with Shaheen Shariff and Alissa Sklar, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Organized by the Westmount Healthy City Project. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Marianopolis Music Concert Fall Series, 7:30 pm at Marianopolis College (4873 Westmount Ave.) in the auditorium. Teachers and students of the professional music program perform. Free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

"Responsibility to Protect (R2P): After **Libya and Syria**, Which Way Forward?" with speaker Evan Cinq-Mars, 7 pm at the Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Sponsored by the Montreal Branch of the World Federalist Movement-Canada. Free will donation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Used book sale by the **Friends of the Library**, 10 am to 6 pm at Victoria Hall. Also, Sunday, November 25, same time. Proceeds go towards purchasing new books for the Westmount Public Library. Info: Carolyn O'Neill 514.483.5604.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Montreal Camera Club hosts a nature photography competition and presentation of photos from George Liberman on **gannets on Bonaventure Island in the Gaspé**, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). All welcome. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca .

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

"Yello Dyno Safety Party" from KidzSafe. A 30-minute interactive presentation with music and puppets for children from two-and-a-half to six years old to teach them how to be safe. 4 pm at the Westmount Public Library in the children's section. Free. Info: 514.989.5357.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

• Mountainside United Church's **"A Christmas Celebration of Music"** concert, 3 pm, 687 Roslyn Ave. The musical ensembles of Mountainside Church will be joined by Caroline Derome, flutist, and Rafael de Castro, organist. Christmas carols for all to sing. Free will offering. Info: 514.486.1165.

• **A fundraiser for the Westmount Youth Orchestra** to feature a concert of "Respighi: Ancient Airs and Dances," "Bach: Concerto in A minor for violin and orchestra" and "Prokofiev: Troika," 2:30 pm at Westmount Park United Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Tickets are free for children, \$10 for adults.

• **"Scrooge comes to Victoria Hall"** with Jeunesses musicales du Canada, which will present a musical version of "A Christmas Carol," 2 pm at Victoria Hall. For children 6 and up. Tickets: Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$8 and seniors (65 and over) \$10, available at Victoria Hall (cash only). Info: 514.989.5226.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

Studying medicine



At a recent "Mini Med" session at the Montreal Children's Hospital, from left, Westmounter and the Children's head of plastic surgery Dr. Mirko Gilardino was one of the speakers, and volunteers were grade 11 Study students Stephanie Mouchbahani-Constance, Sara Ordonselli, and Olivia Desiatnyk.

Photo courtesy of The Study

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Carrier to read at Royal West

Westmounter Roch Carrier's two new fiction books for young adults *C'est certain que je t'aime, bébé!* and *Embardées sur le chemin de l'école* were released in October. He is scheduled to read his book *The Hockey Sweater* and host a Q&A session at Royal West Academy at 7 pm. For ticket information, visit www.royalwestacademy.com/foundation. Proceeds go to Royal West Academy Foundation's Capital Campaign, according to Westmount resident Jasmin Uthoff, who is the foundation's president.

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Mappin, Holden work the antiques roadshow for UWCM



The University Women's Club of Montreal's (UWCM) "Discovering Hidden Treasures" fundraiser held on November 10 raised over \$1,000. From left, Westmounters Judy Mappin and Hélène Holden, business partners at the former Double Hook Bookstore on Greene Ave., met up at the antiques roadshow-style event held at the Atwater Club. Mappin, a member of the UWCM, was in charge of the bake sale. Holden was the expert on glass and porcelain and was "particularly busy, including getting to see an early Josiah Wedgwood pot, which caused great excitement!" according to Westmounter Lesley Forrester, who sits on the club's board as vice president and treasurer.

Photo courtesy of the University Women's Club of Montreal

Vanguard, cont'd. from p. 3

it has been stripped as various development projects fell through and is now ready for Vanguard's interior renovations, Coffin-Caputo explained. Plans include the building of a gymnasium.

To accommodate 800

"We're very excited," Coffin-Caputo said. "It better meets our needs." The new site will allow for the housing under one roof of all 800 students from the three campuses.

A total of 340 students are currently enrolled at the Westmount "intercultural" campus, which serves special needs high school students from 13 school boards on and off the island of Montreal. Many are bussed to and from the boards.

The school's francophone high school

is located in Laval and the elementary campus is in St. Laurent. A site large enough to accommodate the entire student body had been sought for some time (see March 10, 2011, p. 1).

Crane hoists transformers around in Murray Park

A large crane at Murray Park October 13 was needed to remove an electrical transformer from the park substation and hoist a new one into its place, public safety officers report. The manoeuvre involved backing the crane down from Westmount Ave. to Forden Crescent to position it for the operation.

PSU food drive kicks off with artisans' fair

The Public Security food drive was launched November 10 and 11 at the Westmount Artisans' Festival at Victoria Hall, bringing in \$2,532 from attendees plus enough non-perishable food to fill four large wheeled recycling bins. It was reported to be about the same as last year.

The donations, announced by assistant Public Security director Greg McBain, were the price of admission to the annual two-day event. Donation bins have now been placed in all municipal buildings including city hall, the library, Victoria Hall, Centre Greene and the Public Security station.

The proceeds will go toward the annual distribution of holiday food baskets to families in need in Westmount as identified by the CLSC, he said. If enough donations are received, they will be used to help families at some local schools, as occurred last year.

The cash is used to add grocery coupons to the food baskets for the purchase of turkeys, hams or other perishable items. —LS

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October sales solid at lower end



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in October, 2012. 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 offers a picture of these trends over time.

Real estate agents in Westmount are worried about the fall market, but the numbers are stronger than the agents might expect, as 11 one- and two-family sales in October were negotiated, compared with 14 in each of the previous two Octobers. Prices held, as well, with the average mark-up over municipal evaluation at 31 percent and no sales recorded under the tax value.

The only worrying aspect is that only one of the sales was above \$1.5 million, and five of the 11 sales were less than \$1

million, so the raw average price was just over \$1.2 million.

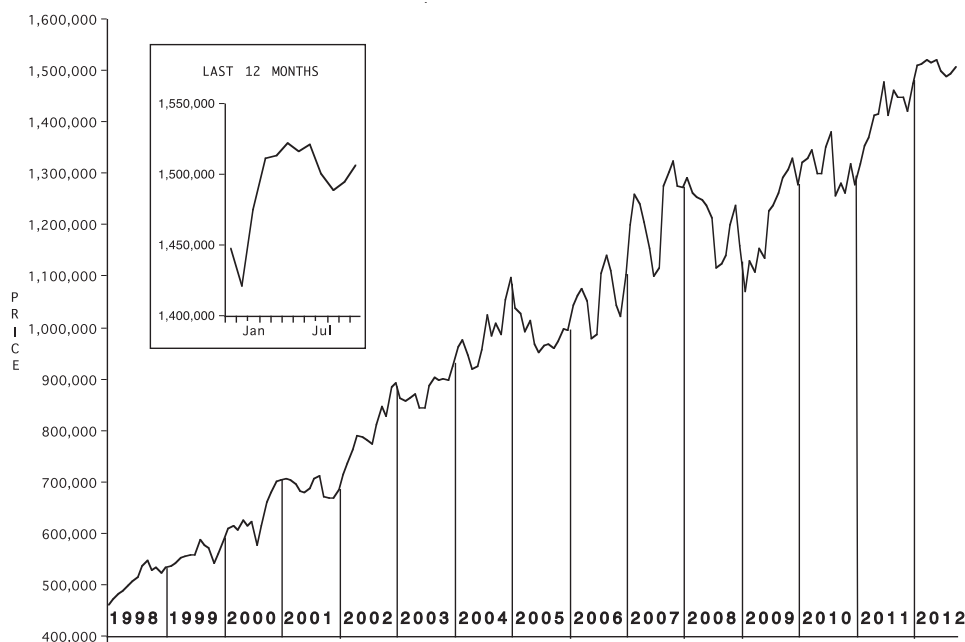
Still, the “typical” Westmount house with a valuation of \$1,201,709 would be selling for about \$1,500,000, basically unchanged since February.

The average days-on-market was 64, about the same as in September, and those two statistics are the best since October last year; only three of the 11 houses sold this October were on the market longer than 100 days.

Lowest price in October was \$685,000 for a house on Somerville Ave., while a totally renovated house on Argyle Ave. brought \$2,608,000, but the range within those two extremes was \$840,000 to \$1,475,000. The lowest mark-up was 9 percent and the highest was 61 percent; both higher than they had been in any month since June.

More and more houses are coming on the market asking \$3 million and higher – there were 38 at last count – while only five have sold this year through the MLS system, and none since April. So the top of the market is very shaky, even shakier since the provincial election, but the rest of it appears to have maintained its strength.

Average adjusted price of typical Westmount property by month from Jan. 1998 to Oct. 2012, based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

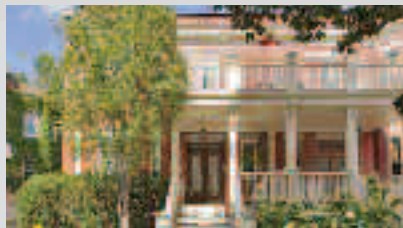


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\$9500 Monthly

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Only one condominium sold in October starting the fourth quarter of 2012, so it is virtually impossible to make any statistics around it. The only thing that can be said is that the average price of condos sold this year is only slightly higher than last year, and the average mark-up for the year is almost exactly the same as last year.

Only one single-family house in adjacent-Westmount – on Grey Ave. – sold in October, along with a triplex on Seymour St.

Art scene, cont'd. from p. 15

Lang, the use of texture is also seen in his series of small, whimsical works of explorers, astronauts and creatures.

Reaching into the annals of art history, Lang combines the familiar with the new in modern juxtapositions. The exhibit continues to Tuesday, November 27 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave.

Schweitzer's juxtaposition of found objects and Lang's new, yet familiar, paintings permit multiple interpretations. Thoughtfully crafted with thematic or historical references, the ambiguity of their work captures our attention and imagination.

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer.
blackheajea@gmail.com

Last November recorded 18 transactions in Westmount and the average over the past dozen years is 15, so the volume in the coming month will be a good indication of the strength of the market heading into next year.

First ice of the season

An outside sprinkler system sprayed the front lawn of a house on Ramezay Rd. with so much water that it flooded onto the sidewalk and road before turning to ice, public safety officers discovered at 9:12 am October 7. It was not immediately known whether the system had malfunctioned or had simply not been turned off. Public Works crews spread salt on the public way.

Driver hit by summer tire

In what was described as a minor motor vehicle accident October 9, public safety officers came across a Mercedes immobilized after one of the front wheels hit a large rock at Summit Rd. and Summit Circle at about 6:56 pm. The driver claimed to have been hit by one of the summer tires he was carrying in the back seat as he turned the corner. A patrol car stood by until a tow truck arrived.

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OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, 2 to 4 PM



WESTMOUNT \$1,149,000
4450 Sherbrooke W #2

Stunning 3 bedroom condo in heritage building, 1876 sq.ft., open concept, large kitchen, high ceilings and windows, wood floors, double fireplace.

MLS 9005258



OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, 2 to 4 PM



WESTMOUNT \$895,000
74 Bruce

Charming attached home located on a quiet street with park. This 3 bedroom residence offers hardwood floors, high ceilings, fireplace, bi-energy furnace and finished basement. A direct entrance to the basement offers the opportunity for a home business.

MLS 9259277



WESTMOUNT \$1,075,000
303 Grosvenor

Lovely attached 3+1 bedroom in superb condition! This charming renovated property offers very spacious rooms, beautiful wood floors, leaded windows, eat-in kitchen, large garden and tons of light coming from the skylights. Not to be missed!

MLS 1032942

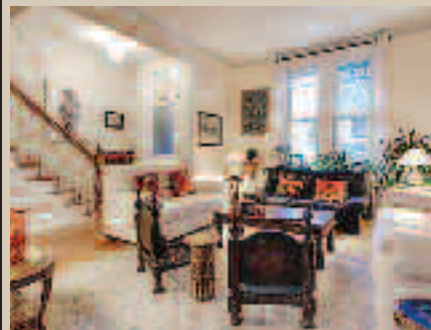
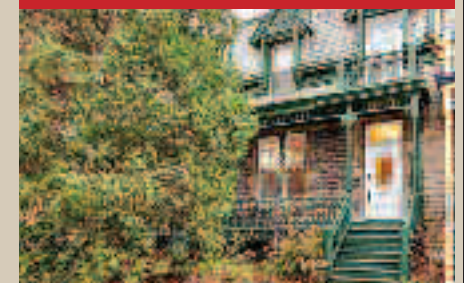


WESTMOUNT \$695,000
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Great opportunity as a starter house! This century old property with 4+1 bedrooms has been renovated and offers great spaces with high ceilings and a large private garden. Walking distance to all the shops, you can literally forget about your car!

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\$499,000

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