WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 11 No. 3c | *We are Westmount* | March 21, 2017

'Street view' of southeast vision targetted for June presentation

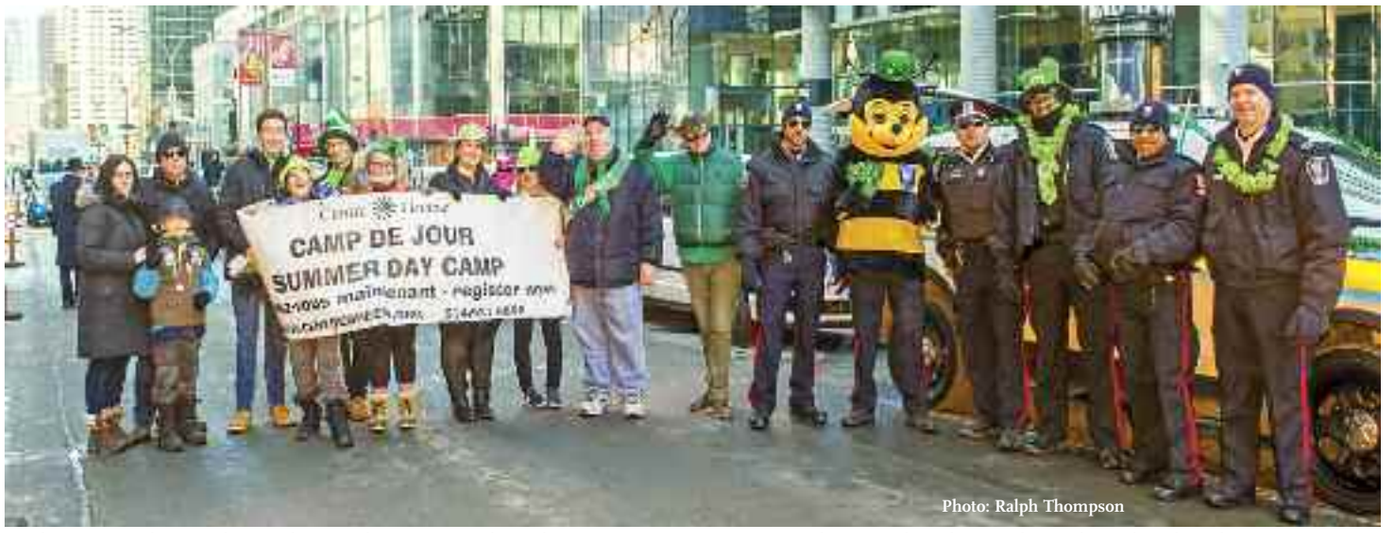
By Laureen Sweeney

The city's vision for the southeast area appears to be gaining traction with the naming by city council of a professional project management group.

"This company is able to finalize the vision for us," Councillor Theodora Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning, told the council meeting March 6. It was timely considering, she said, "what's going on on the other side of Atwater," a reference to the redevelopment of the former Montreal Chil-

continued on p. 8

Joining in Westmount's St. Patrick's parade contingent



At the St. Patrick's parade March 19, enthusiasts joined together to represent Westmount at the annual outdoor tradition that takes place downtown. Among those seen here at the René Levesque staging area just before the start of the parade were members of Centre Greene and Westmount Public Security.

Receptionist no longer answers initial call

City awaits data on new phone prompt system

By Laureen Sweeney

Callers to the city of Westmount's central phone number over the past few months may have noticed a change in the answering system, where calls are not answered initially by a receptionist. Soon, it seems, visitors to city hall may also encounter a rearrangement of the reception area. And it's all tied together.

City director general Mike Deegan said the new answering service had been designed on a trial basis to streamline requests and help callers obtain information they were seeking more efficiently by using a system of prompts. These lead directly to specific departments and a person designated to receive enquiries.

"People still have an option to speak to a receptionist by pressing zero," Deegan pointed out.

It is hoped the new sys-

continued on p. 12

Letters *p. 6*
Social Notes by V. Redgrave *p. 13*

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Westmount adj., 4089 Highland Ave.
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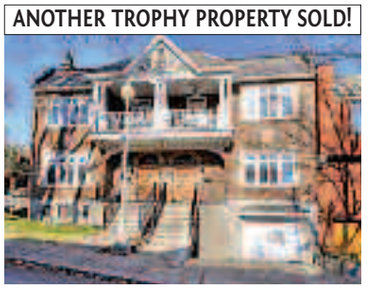

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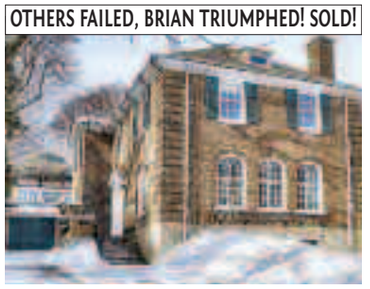
NDG, 4274 Hingston Ave.
SPACIOUS, impeccably maintained.
$849,000



Westmount adj., 3105 The Boulevard
STUNNING detached heritage property.
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As the storm hits Westmount

Public Security reports 2 accidents, blocks 2 streets

By Laureen Sweeney

Shortly after the start of last week's 40-cm snowstorm March 14, Public Security officials said patrollers reported at least two accidents on slippery hills and two requests to block hilly streets. No injuries were reported. All occurred in the late afternoon when the snow began intensifying.

The blowing snow continued overnight and into the next day when few reports were logged and traffic was reported to be much lighter than usual. Most schools were closed for the day.

The first accident was recorded at 3:46 pm when officers were called for a rear-ender at Mountain and Montrose. A driver said she had been going slowly down the hill but kept sliding until hitting the rear of another vehicle. Damage included the right side of the trunk and bumper of one car and a light on the other. One driver lived in Westmount, the other in Verdun.

Around 4:12 pm, a taxi driver lost control of the vehicle while heading south on Lexington. The cab ended up on private property at Sunnyside, where significant damage was reported to a retaining wall.

At 4:39 pm, Public Security was called by firefighters to block Clarke Ave. between the two intersections of Anwoth Rd. until a salt truck could arrive on the scene. The street was opened up at 4:54 pm. It was not known what had brought firefighters to the street.

At 5:36 pm, patrollers blocked Grosvenor at Westmount Ave. when they noticed drivers turning around on the one-way north street as it backed up at The Boulevard. Walking up the hill, a patroller found only four-wheel-drive vehicles were able to get over the top. The block was reopened 20 minutes later.

Descôteaux welcomed, Elder thanked

At the city council meeting March 6, David Descôteaux, centre, was appointed to the newly created position of assistant division head for municipal buildings at Public Works. Stephen Elder, left, head of the division, was thanked for his years of service with the city on the approach of his retirement. With them is Elisa Gaetano, assistant director for engineering and infrastructure. Photo: Laureen Sweeney

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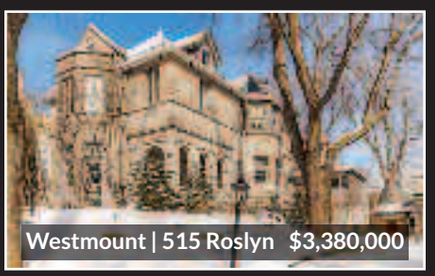

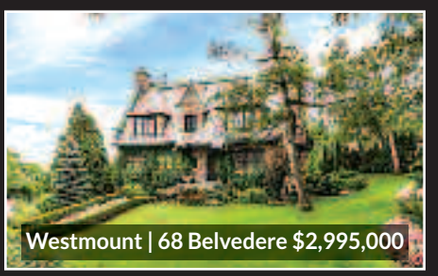

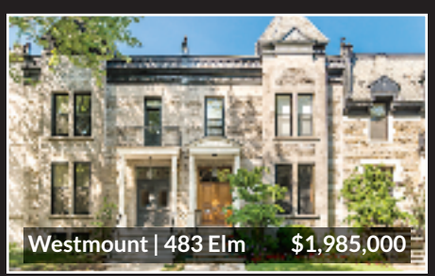

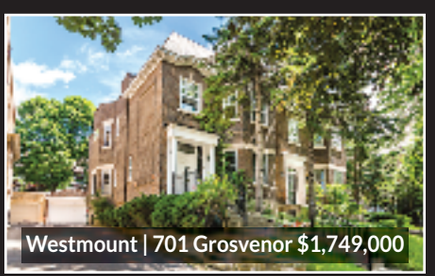

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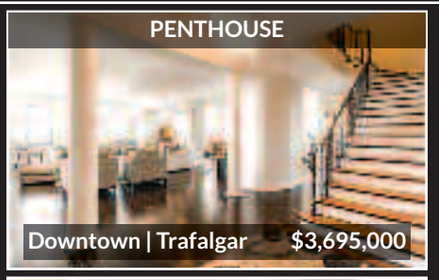

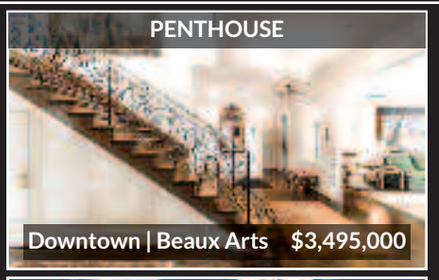

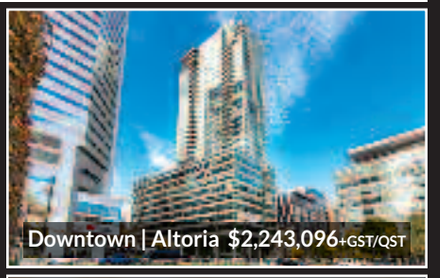

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Letters to the Editor

Snow Day!

Happy Westmount pups Aussie, Peanut, Sophie and Murphy in the King George (Murray) Park dog run!

Catherine Cook, Holton Ave.

Photo courtesy of C. Cook

Open letter to councillor Davis

This is a picture of Victoria Ave. looking south near Sherbrooke the afternoon of March 17. As you can easily appreciate, the sidewalks are still impassable. Either you walk on the street and risk getting hit by a car or climb like a mountain goat over the drifts.

I would have thought one tragedy in Westmount [the death of Jessica Holman-Price] would have been enough to convince everyone that keeping sidewalks clear is essential, and, in fact, should be a priority over clearing the streets.

I'm looking forward to hearing what you and the council plan on doing to prevent this ever happening again.

Jack Glay, Victoria Ave.

Victoria looking south, March 17 at 3 pm.

Photos courtesy of J. Glay

What about cost of parking system?

We are somewhat surprised that Finance commissioner Victor Drury has concluded that the pay-by-plate parking system is "going gangbusters." ("Pay-by-plate parking ups 'meter' revenue 10%," March 14, p. 1.)

While the city's revenue may have increased by 10 percent, what is the fate of Westmount citizens who are saddled with this inconvenient and unnecessary project foisted upon us apparently to benefit the municipal coffers?

And what about its $1-million cost, which surely could have been better spent on making improvements required for other facilities in Westmount?

Tim Carsley, Barat Rd.

Open letter to mayor

I wanted to bring your attention to one of those gray metal boxes, with the official mark "Canada Post," which are seen on apparently random corners throughout the city.

This one is conspicuously located at the intersection of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. Please note in the photo how such containers can become hideous, and sadly permanent eyesores due to their being a magnet for the oddball scribbling of stealth and frenzied aliens, who move fast and who of course never identify themselves.

These eerie markings are often accompanied by equally strange and cryptic stickers, also of untraceable origin.

Richard Orlando, Sherbrooke St.

Editor's note: Canada Post is a federal government responsibility. – KM.

Photo courtesy of R. Orlando

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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Chief reporter: Laureen Sweeney

Letters & Comments:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com. *Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.*

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Duke at SPCA Annex

9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

It has been some time since we have written about cats for adoption from the SPCA. But we hear about this organization as it is working very hard at advocacy for legislative change for animals, putting policies forward to soften certain dog types and speaking out for the horses in the carriage trade. The SPCA is always present where there are needs for social improvements for the care of animals.

Yet, at its core, its mission as a shelter remains saving animals in need and rescuing them from abuse, providing vet care and getting them permanent homes.

In that light, I would like to present Duke for adoption in our community. He is a stunning white and tortoiseshell domestic longhair with a unique nose and stunning green eyes.

He is a healthy 5-year-old, neutered, up to date on his inoculations and microchipped.

Duke is very affectionate and appreciates the company of other cats as well. He is a perfect companion and looking forward to a family of his own. He is available for a visit at the SPCA Annex shelter, which is located at 7314 Mountain Sights Ave. It is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 12 pm to 5 pm without an appointment. However, if you would like an appointmeunt outside of these hours, please call them at 514.915.7311 or email them at annexe@spca.com. His pet ID at the shelter is 33364152. *Your neighbour, Lysanne*

Correction

Miguel Burnier, who was mentioned in the March 7, p. 4 article about the Healthy City Project's spring lecture series, is development officer with the McGill University Health Centre Foundation and the Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation. His father, also Miguel Burnier, is a medical doctor.

Earth Hour in Westmount to take place Saturday

Councillor's Column

Cynthia Lulham

The best part of my role as a city councillor is working with citizens on committees. We are so fortunate in Westmount to have so many knowledgeable and experienced residents who give their time and share their expertise to better our community.

Twenty six years ago, Westmount joined the World Health Organization's (WHO) Healthy City Project. The WHO defines the Healthy City as "one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources, which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential."

The environmental committee of the Westmount Healthy City Project has been busy organizing this year's Earth Hour celebration. Westmount will join communities from around the world to observe Earth Hour this Saturday, March 25 at Victoria Hall from 5:30 pm to 10 pm.

This year's theme is "Every Bite Counts," focusing on food – and featuring booths, speakers, short films and workshops. All activities are free and are geared to both children and adults.

The overabundance of processed, high-sodium, high-sugar food impacts the healthcare system as is evident in Public Health Agency of Canada figures from 2009 to 2011. They indicated 26.2 percent of Canadians over the age of 18 were obese, and among those 20 and over, 4.2 percent had elevated blood glucose and 7.8 percent had elevated blood pressure.

Food production and transportation also result in high carbon emissions!

Earth Hour, this year, aims to support the growing awareness about how to feed ourselves better – supporting purchasing locally produced food, farmers' markets in urban settings, community gardening and promoting bees and sustainable gardening.

As always, we ask you to turn off your lights and reduce the use of electricity during the actual Earth Hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Hydro Westmount will be measuring – help us set a new record!

Telescopes will be set up outside Victoria Hall by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the RCMP pipers will perform to usher in Earth Hour.

So, please tell your friends and come enjoy Earth Hour!

Councillor Cynthia Lulham is commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

Six dogs in Woods all properly licenced

Patrollers in Summit Woods March 13 scanned dog tags using the new hand held devices and found all six had valid permits, Public Security officials said. Chips are now embedded in the tags allowing the licences to be scanned. "We would like dog owners to know that they have the option of providing the officer with the licence number if their dog is too nervous to have the tag scanned," said Public Security director Greg McBain. The number can then be checked with the city's database.

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Trent: Buildings 'too tall'

City submits brief to hearings opposing plan for ex-MCH site

By Laureen Sweeney

City council's concerns over the height and scale of the proposed redevelopment of the former Montreal Children's Hospital on Tupper were relayed March 14 in a brief to the Office de consultation publique de Montréal for hearings March 20.

When the plan for six mixed-use towers was revealed publicly in January, Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent* that the council would present its position opposing the height and scale of the project to rise on Westmount's eastern flank. Only a small existing building lies in Westmount on the corner of Dorchester and Atwater (see story January 17, p. 1).

In the brief, Trent states that the "project turns its back on heritage, adds no green space and does nothing to attract young families. And above all the buildings are egregiously too tall." One, he points out is to be 32 storeys.

"As an immediate neighbour and with eight percent of the site lying within its borders, the city of Westmount has been asked to comment," he states.

"This project must be scaled down," and the whole district needs more public green spaces, parks and services, such as a primary school, he asserts in the brief. He explains how "overbuilding" in downtown Montreal has forced children to attend Westmount's École St. Léon that is now considered over crowded.

Spurs on SE vision

The project has given impetus to Westmount's efforts to complete a south-east vision for its own territory in order to prevent high-rise development in the future from being built on the swath of land now essentially occupied by the parking lots between Tupper and Dorchester (see separate story, p. 1).

Trent's brief also adds how Westmount, as the most densely populated city in Quebec, has managed to provide and preserve parks, green spaces and family services and has learned from mistakes of the '60s in allowing high-rise buildings.

Under the redevelopment proposal, the three-storey building that lies in the only Westmount portion of the site is to be preserved. Its 20-foot colonnade entrance at the corner is protected by its Category I heritage rating.

Southeast studies done

cont'd. from p. 1

dren's Hospital, where six towers are proposed (see separate story).

City council appointed Société AGIL for "management and supervision of the South-East Planning Project" and authorized an expenditure of $80,000. AGIL was described as a private but non-profit company that specializes in the conception and realization of urban planning and architectural projects in the public domain.

The first meeting between the project manager and the city's steering committee took place March 15, after which Samiotis told the *Independent* she was "hopeful" a plan and report can be ready for presentation in June. Clément Demers, the firm's director general, is a Westmount resident, she said.

"We've already done the studies," Samiotis explained. "We just need someone to bring all the pieces together in a global vision to create a plan for the area on a local livable scale."

In particular, she said, "we need a street-view vision of what it would look like. So far, we've only seen an aerial view" represented in a preliminary plan.

This street view, she said, would include a new design for St. Catherine St. with seven-storey commercial buildings on the south side, which are now permitted, a 10-storey one at the southwest corner of Atwater, which is now also permitted, and larger setbacks than those existing. These were adopted in a rezoning of the commercial area more than two years ago (see story December 9, 2014, p. 1).

Connecting two areas

The aim is to connect this commercial street to lower residential housing between Tupper and the north side of Dorchester using "strong north-south crossing links" to the residential enclave south of Dorchester "along with lots of green." Up till now, she noted, the process had been "piecemeal."

Last year, two public meetings took place presenting "a preliminary plan" for developing the land between Tupper and Dorchester, much of which is occupied by parking lots. This had been stalled over opposition mainly from residents of Dorchester. "Now we know what residents want and our traffic study of Dorchester is being completed."

When the total vision is presented at the next public information meeting, she said, she expects it could include the wider Westmount community rather than being limited to the neighbourhood.

Members of the city's steering committee for the southeast planning project include Samiotis, Mayor Peter Trent, Julia Gersovitz (Planning Advisory Committee chair), Councillor Cynthia Lulham and Urban Planning director Tom Flies, along with Public Works and Hydro Westmount representatives.

Burnt food evacuates part of the 4300

A number of residents of the large apartment complex at 4300 de Maisonneuve assembled in the lobby March 9 after an evacuation alarm sounded around 7:06 pm, Public Security officials said. No door man was present, according to the report.

Since the residents appeared warmly dressed, they were moved outside for about 10 minutes while firefighters checked out the source of smoke that had activated the alarm. It was traced to burnt food on the fourth floor. Smoke on the third floor was attributed to what was described as a shift in air pressure downward. The incident was described as a partial evacuation.

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Centre Greene's 'community suppers' now reach out to everyone

Getting 'people around the table'

By Ruby Pratka

For anyone who's tired of cooking at home or settling for TV dinners or mediocre take-out after a long day, Centre Greene has the answer.

"We started the community suppers program a few years ago as a way for parents of children in our daycare and after-school programs to get to know each other. We also open the gym so the kids can play while the parents talk," explained Beth Symansky, the centre's director. "We've been organizing the suppers on and off for several years, mostly in winter and spring, to give people a reason to get out of the house when the weather's not as nice. We try to serve things like spaghetti, chili and lasagna that are good for kids and delicious for adults. This month, it's pizza."

The pizza party took place March 10.

"Now we've opened the program up to the wider Westmount community so people who use our programs can get to know each other, and people from around the neighbourhood can learn more about our programs," she added.

"Each time we've done it, we've gotten a really good turnout. Families come in, get to know each other and set up play dates for their kids."

The pizza dinner was cooked by volunteers in the centre's kitchen and served in its spacious dining room, the "Sunroom," which has been hosting meals for senior citizens twice a month for many years. "For each of the suppers, our special events coordinator gets together a group of volunteers to cook and serve," said Symansky. "One of our regular volunteers is a trained chef, and he makes sure everything goes well in the kitchen. Local high school students and kids from our after-school programs help serve. Some of the same people who attend the seniors' lunches attend the community suppers, so it's also a great opportunity for intergenerational discussions."

From left: Centre Greene assistant director Sophie Cram, special events co-ordinator Chelsea Kingzett and volunteer Nicola Pelly prepare lasagna in the centre's kitchen for a recent seniors' lunch.

The cost of a plate at the community supper is the same as at the seniors' lunch – $5 per adult. Children eat for $3. "We keep costs down by getting donations from people and businesses in the neighbourhood," she said. "If we make our money back, that's great. If not, it's a cost we're willing to absorb to get people around the table."

The next supper is being planned for April 7. People interested in attending are encouraged to reserve in advance in person at the front desk. Those who are interested in helping in the kitchen can email info@centregreene.org.

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The day after Westmount got buried

Photos: Ralph Thompson

Robert Koenekoop, a paediatric ophthalmologist at the Montreal Children's Hospital, heads to work the morning of March 15 on Arlington Ave. A year-round cyclist, the more than 40 cms of snow was just another seasonal challenge for Koenekoop.

Interesting patterns were created on the front of this apartment building on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor by the heavy blowing snow.

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under 50 cms of snow

Matthias Primavesi, left, and his father Paul dig out their car on Victoria Ave. at 7:15 am March 15. The irony, said the dad, was "we went skiing at Tremblant last week, and it was raining."

A couple of workmen assist a car out of the laneway behind the RBC building at Victoria Ave. at 7:20 am. After a bit of pushing and spinning wheels, the car was dislodged and drove away with a cheery "thank you" called out from the driver.

At 7:15 am, a snow removal contractor was already busy cleaning a driveway on Roslyn Ave. below Sherbrooke.

Sidewalks the biggest challenge

Snow loading expected to take all week

By Laureen Sweeney

Last week's 40-cm snow dump on the downtown Montreal area is expected to take the whole of this week before the city is cleaned up, according to Public Works officials.

Due to the amount of snow, every part of the regular snow operation is taking about twice as long as usual, city assistant director Benoit Hurtubise said March 16. "Because of the wind, we're actually having to pick up an accumulation of 50 cm."

A large amount of snow had been pushed up onto the sidewalks, which have been one of major problems, he explained. "People have nowhere to put the snow."

As well, he said, the small Bombardier sidewalk plows can only handle up to a depth of two feet. As a result, many sidewalks won't be able to be cleared until the snow banks are removed from the streets.

The same problems had been encountered in plowing sidewalks after the storm of December 27, 2012 when a record-setting 45.6-cm was reported. In an *Independent* story (January 15, 2013, p. 3), Public Works officials are quoted as saying they were innovating by using the mini plow and blower the city had purchased for its outside skating rinks to clear some of sidewalks where the snow was too deep for the smaller sidewalk plows.

Hurtubise said the unit is being used on sidewalks "all over the city for the higher snow banks."

The way the schedule was proceeding, he said, the cleaning (by "pushing" the snow to the side of the street) on the "priority one" streets was taking two days rather the usual one. These are the commercial areas, school zones and fire routes. One lane was also being cleaned in each direction on arterial streets such as Sherbrooke.

Collector streets were to follow, after which loading operations would start and require the entire week.

All Public Works crews had been out working since 4 am March 14, Hurtubise said.

Photos: *Westmount Independent* archive

This mini loader/blower purchased for outdoor rinks was able to clear sidewalks impassable by small plows; at right, after it cleared a sidewalk on Murray Hill after a big storm in December 2012.

Comin' Up

Saturday, March 25

City of Westmount's **Earth Hour** activities, 5:30 pm at Victoria Hall. See p. 7. Info: 514.989.5226.

Wednesday, March 29

Poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd, 10:15 am to 11:15 am in the boardroom of the Westmount Public Library. Info: 514.989.5299.

Thursday, March 30

"Beyond Traditional Medicine" presented by **Susan Doherty**, 7 pm, Lodge Room at Victoria Hall. Part of Westmount Healthy City Project/MUHC Foundation joint lecture series. Register: muhcfoundation.com/whc or 514.843.1543.

Author James Hughes discusses how Canada's social programs can work better, save lives and money, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Part of the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series.

Monday, April 3

City council meeting, city hall, 8 pm.

Until April 7

Exhibition of the works of **Shelley Freeman** and **Alexandra Macdougall** at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Mood of the Market

February sales: Here we go!

Real Estate

Andy Dodge

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in February 2017. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses can't 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.

Lower prices and higher mark-ups show that the Westmount real estate market is getting stronger as we move in to the spring market though there is still some resistance to the $2-million-plus prices that are so much a part of the local market.

In the first two months of 2017, some 21 sales have been posted by local agents, about average for the first two months, but none have been above the $2-million mark and in fact six of the 21 were under $1 million, thus almost 29 percent, which is the biggest percentage of under-$1-million sales (on an annual basis) since 2012.

But the 21 sales have averaged eight percent above their new 2017 municipal evaluations, which are seven percent higher than the previous valuations, so the mark-up applied to the average valuation in Westmount has pushed the "typical" value over $1.7 million.

In February, for example, 11 sales averaged only $1,166,783, but the prices ranged from $732,000 to $1,700,000, only three for less than municipal evaluation. A sale of two properties together in late January brought a net 13 percent more than the combined municipal evaluation of the two properties, but the breakdown of the reported transactions showed that one sold for more than double the tax assessment while the other went for far less than the deemed value.

In February the highest mark-up was 33 percent, and the biggest mark-down 11 percent, compared to the new 2017 municipal evaluations.

Another sign of a strengthening market is that the average number of days-to-sale dropped from 235 in December to 166 in January to only 98 in February, and the latter included 7 of the 11, which sold in less than a month. Also, adjacent-Westmount posted 11 sales in January and February, including five in southern Côte des Neiges (Circle Road and Cedar Cresc. areas) and two very expensive properties on Redpath Cresc.

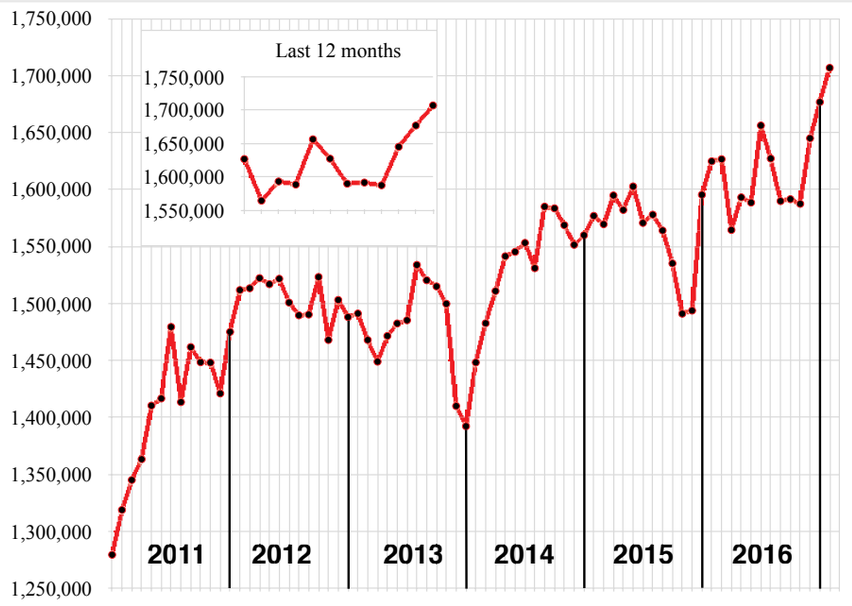
Two condominium apartments sold in February, adding to a list from January, which included one condo apartment, two duplex-type condos and two apartment co-ops, mostly in the range of $400,000 to $700,000.

The coming of the spring market brought a sharp increase in the number of available listings, to 82 from 67 in mid-January, but this is nothing like the 128 in mid-March last year.

At the time of writing, only one Westmount house was being offered at less than $800,000, while one was on the market at more than $10 million.

Andy Dodge is a retired Canadian Residential Appraiser.

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, Jan. 2011 to Feb. 2017, based on accepted offer dates



Phone system *cont'd. from p. 1*

tem will reduce the likelihood of callers "falling through cracks" and then claiming their enquiries had not been answered, he explained. "We are able to track how callers were served."

He said recently he was still awaiting data on the trial period, which will be used to make a final decision, but believed the system was a success.

He said he had not received any complaints about it, and that people are not generally shy voicing complaints. He said he had had six calls waiting for him that day about icy sidewalks when he had arrived at work.

Phone data

The phone data should include how many calls have been made to the city, how many were being picked up or how many callers, if any, were put on hold.

The changes are also part of a restructuring of the Finance department. This follows the departure of three people who had been working on software related to implementation of the new finance system, he explained. Since this is now complete, their function had become redundant and was being handled by the previous receptionist.

Callers who choose the zero prompt and still want to speak to a receptionist will generally be answered by the cashier, who will double as a receptionist now that fewer bills are being paid in person at city hall, he explained.

Renovation plans

Plans for renovations are being made to reposition the cashier and other customer representatives to across from the city hall's back door off the parking lot, where they can be easily seen by visitors.

Deegan said the city had met with an architect who was drawing up plans for the re-rearrangement.

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Dia-Beat-It event dials up the night

Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

A tall holiday-red lobster tree, a vintage grill-door elevator and a bank vault presented a magical moment on November 17. Worthy of surrealist artist Salvador Dali, the mise-en-scène juxtapositions were part of Dia-Beat-It, a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). It was held at the turn-of-the-century former bank, now the St. James theatre in Old Montreal.

Caterer Buon Appétit offered a seafood table during cocktail hour, hence the crawling crustacean creation.

The crowded eve attracted old and young alike. Many ladies wore chic cocktail dresses; most style statements were basic black accessorized with beautiful bits of glitter, eye-catching across the crowded room.

Quite a few children attended. One shy little Cinderella wore a tiny tulle skirt over tights and sneakers. The little ones were JDRF "ambassadors," many with type 1 diabetes.

In the pre-dinner cocktail room, after descending in the charming old lift, guests enjoyed champagne and a photo op. In the bank vault under the vintage sign from the previous bank, the sartorial stand-outs smiled as cameras flashed. A moment worth saving indeed.

Honorary president was **Martin Thibodeau,** president, RBC Quebec. Attending from JDRF Canada were **Dave Prowten**, president/CEO, and **Matt Varey**, board chair; as well as JDRF Quebec representatives **Francine Bourdeau**, director JDRF Eastern Canada; and Dr. **David Kozloff,** Quebec chair, attending with his wife **Evelyn** and dentist daughters **Lisa Kozloff** and **Rosanne Kozloff**, there with hubby **Lloyd Feldman**; and in-laws **Linda** and **Solly Feldman.**

Noted at the sit-down dinner were gracious sponsors **Ezio Carosielli** and **Luisa Sassano**, owners St. James theatre; **Marla** and **Robert Oringer;** and **Krayna Golfman**, a JDRF Canada co-founder.

Westmounters attending included **Brenda** and **David Gameroff**, **Jill** and **Jordan Aberman**, **Rhoda** and **Robert Vineberg** and their son **Justin Vineberg** with his wife **Samantha Vineberg**, and psychologist **Andrea Martin** and hubby **Jean-Sébastien Grisé**.

From left: Dr. David Kozloff, flanked by his wife Evelyn, left, and his daughter Dr. Lisa Kozloff, right.

The dining room was rock-concert splendid, with musicians' silhouettes "starring" in the back-lit windows. The "Beat It" theme was carried out with a Michael Jackson concert by **Jimmy Moore** and his dancers,

continued on p. 14

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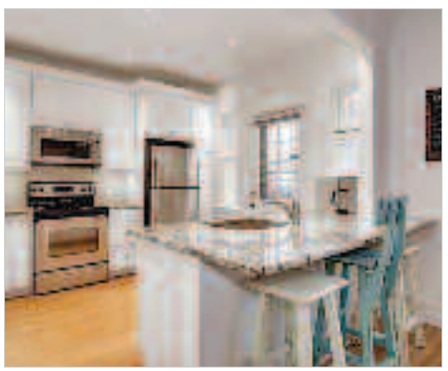

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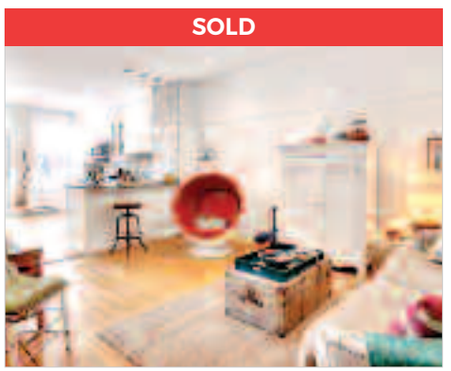

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***Social Notes** cont'd. from p. 13*

who performed the late singer's songs, including the classic song itself, inspiring many under-the-table-toe-tappers.

The evening raised $550,000 to help JDRF Canada accelerate the research to cure, better treat and prevent type 1 diabetes. The "Fund A Cure" segment of the evening funded the JDRF Artificial Pancreas Project, including the research done in Montreal by **Dr. Remi Rabasa-Lhoret** and his team at IRCM.

Please send spring social event information to redgrave@videotron.ca.

Kim Laroche, left, and Krayna Golfman.

From left: Marla Oringer, Justin and Samantha Vineberg.

Linda and Solly Feldman.

Andrea Martin and Jean-Sébastien Grisé.

Car rolls off Church Hill onto Côte Rd.

A car was found blocking the intersection of Côte St. Antoine and Church Hill at 10:11 am March 13, Public Security officials said. The Volkswagen Golf appeared to have rolled slowly down part of Church Hill, where it had been parked with the hand break applied but left in neutral gear. Officers looked for the driver at nearby places at worship. Eventually, the driver arrived on the scene and was issued a ticket for obstructing traffic. When she reparked the car, she was instructed to turn the wheels to the sidewalk. She was not ticketed for allegedly failing to have done that initially since patrollers had not witnessed the parking infraction.

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Stevenson and Barkley: Fragility and strength

Art Scene

Heather Black

This month, Sarah Stevenson's delicate sculptures at the McClure Gallery, and John Barkley's landscapes and abstract oil paintings at Galerie de Bellefeuille create waves. Fragile, cage-like structures and strong colours project an ambiguity that both tantalizes and teases.

Suspended animation

For Stevenson's exhibition *Fragile*, 15 wire-and-thread sculptures hang from the ceiling. Lit from above and displayed at various heights, thread and wire resemble gossamer webs. Some, frosty white in colour, evoke the supernatural, while others, in metallic green or gold, suggest coiled slinkies or bird cages. Almost transparent like holograms, sculptures shimmer and spin as viewers walk through the exhibition.

For the grouped trio "Three Ghosts," the painted white delicacy of the thread, offset by rhythmically placed, small metallic beads, evokes nature and illusion. For "Janus," a human profile, repeated within a 360-degree circular shape, suggests multiple identities as well as duplicity. The ambiguity of the man-made, cage-like structure references those trapped within society or within the rigid constructs of their own mind.

"Janus" by Sarah Stevenson.

Fragile also includes Stevenson's working drawings for two, elegant cylinder forms. Illustrative of Stevenson's skill of both representation and assembly, the wired delicacy – and fragility – of her work is in sharp contrast to the cabled sculptures of Peter von Tiesenhausen. This unique and interesting exhibition continues until Saturday, March 25 at the Visual Art Centre.

Sound of nature

Barkley's exhibition of forest scenes and nature-derived abstract paintings are vibrant and bold. A colourist, Barkley recreates nature in flamboyant yellow, red and blue compositions. Deft brushstrokes, heavy with paint, evoke fluttering foliage or fallen leaves glistening in water.

The colour dynamic of orange against blue in "Sunlit Trace" evokes autumn foliage overhanging a stream. Patterned brush strokes recall Riopelle's mosaic style, yet Barkley's thick impasto technique is more spontaneous. The fluid washes of "Advent of the Fourth" evokes Gerhard Eichter's abstract paintings, yet Barkley's colour palette is more extroverted. In this work, the rhythm of red, blue and green combine with pastel pink to recreate and evoke the sound of cascading falls.

In contrast, Barkley's representational forest scenes are painted with loose but refined brushstrokes. Colourful dabs of red and yellow against dark tree bark evoke leaves fluttering in the wind. Yet in "Out-Skirts," menacing grey forms suggest a city skyline and human encroachment on nature. Evocative and expressive, Barkley's exhibition continues until Tuesday, March 28 at Galerie de Bellefeuille.

"Sunlit Trace" by John Barkley.

Suggestive ambiguity

In these exhibitions both Stevenson and Barkley rely on beauty to attract attention. Yet the appeal of Stevenson's streamline sculptures or Barkley's patterned brushstrokes lies in the ambiguity of both form and meaning. Suggestive of nature and the man-made, and of the personal as well as collective experience, these works encourage viewers to create their own interpretations, ideas and values.

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer.

Car hits lamp post on Kensington

A car knocked over a Washington lamp standard on Kensington March 9, Public Security officials said. The accident occurred just before 5 pm as the driver was turning right off de Maisonneuve to head north. Neither he nor a passenger was injured. A "young man," described as a new driver, was at the wheel. Hydro Westmount was called to the scene since electrical wires at the base of the post had been exposed.

Edgehill light turned 'wrong way'

An overhanging traffic light at Edgehill and The Boulevard was found facing the wrong way March 10, Public Security officials said. Due to the hazard it presented, Hydro Westmount crews were called to the scene immediately to correct the situation.

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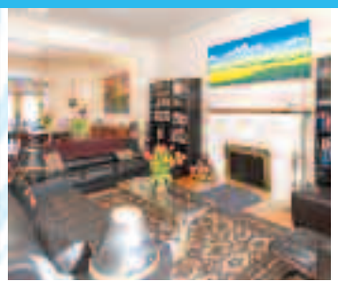
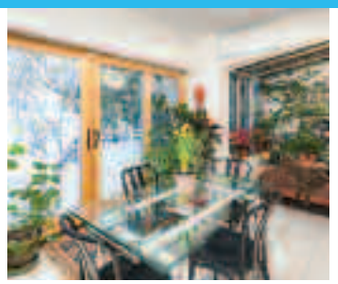

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Lower [SOLD] NDG
Prestigious co[SOLD] Westmount
Penthouse condo with large balcony
4 bedroom home Monkland Village
4 bedroom home Mtl West/NDG/Circle road area
Small house Pointe-Claire
Waterfront home Notre-Dame de L'ile Perrot
Small house Plateau

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEED

FOR SALE/RENT

PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL

4713 Christophe Colomb

$665,000 | MLS 14729825
Lower 1,571 sq.ft. 4-bdrm co-prop. w/fin. bsmt.

DOWNTOWN

1250 Pine Ave., #1180

$1,198,000 | MLS 15153504
2,525 sq.ft., 2-storey penthouse w/2 balconies + 2 garages!

PLATEAU MONT ROYAL

3492-96 DE BULLION

$849,000 | MLS 23921050
NEW OPPORTUNITY! Renovated triplex w/triple occupancy in super location. revenue over $50k/yr! Hurry!

WESTMOUNT

4700 St. Catherine #705

$599,000 | LOCATION!
2 bdrm/2 bath condo w/central air, garage + locker.

WESTMOUNT

396 Olivier #1

$1550/$1795/mo | mls 17299147
2 bdm apt. w/renov. quartz kit., new bath, a/c, wash/dry JULY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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Get the scoop before everyone else!

HELPING YOU SINCE 1987

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