

Infrastructure project outlined at meeting

Residents weigh in Prince Albert plans

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The extent to which everyday basic services affect one's life was driven home April 16 at a city meeting for Prince Albert residents north of Sherbrooke. Major reconstruction of their street and renewal of infrastructure is planned for the next two summers.

"We're having this meeting early because there's lots of work coming to your street," District 4 council-
lor Rosalind Davis told *continued on p. 4*

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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 24, 26
Building permits p. 20



Super-hospital opens on Westmount's doorstep

One of the first ambulances to transfer patients from the Royal Victoria Hospital to the new super-hospital at the Glen site on Westmount's western border makes its way down Atwater near de Maisonneuve near Westmount's eastern border shortly before 7:15 am April 26. An MUHC vehicle follows close behind. A steady but slow stream of vehicles involved in the transfer followed, with the next soon after and every five minutes after that. There were no sirens or flashers, and there wasn't much traffic on the Sunday morning.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Teens caught by PSOs for breaking city streetlamp, garbage can cover

Two 16-year-old boys received tickets for \$119 each for breaking a city streetlamp and a garbage can cover April 18, Public Security officials said. They were detained by public safety officers who had been patrolling King George (Murray) Park at 9:22 pm when they heard a loud noise.

One of the two was then seen swinging a large metal pole at a street light shattering the glass head. The other admitted to breaking a city garbage can cover.

Police were called, informed the boys' parents and advised the PSOs to ticket them under the municipal by-law rather than lay criminal charges against them since neither had a record. One lived in St. Leonard; the other on Cedar in Montreal.

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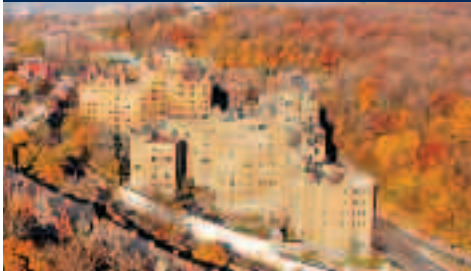
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Falls claim 4 victims in 3 days

‘Elderly’ women fall on Victoria 10 minutes apart

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two women described as elderly fell within 10 minutes of each other April 17 nearby on Victoria just south of Sherbrooke, according to Public Security reports. Both were taken to hospital by ambulance.

Two other documented falls also sent a 6-year-old girl to hospital, as well as a woman caught up in exuberant playing by two dogs.

The first of the accidents on Victoria was witnessed by a parking inspector at 3 pm when a 95-year-old Westmount woman hooked her foot stepping onto the sidewalk at the corner. She was bleeding from a head wound and was given first aid until Urgences Santé took her to the Montreal General.

At 3:10 pm, officers were advised that another woman had fallen in front of 345 Victoria. She had tripped on the sidewalk where a “slight” crack was found. The resident of LaSalle was bleeding from the nose and suffered a swollen lip. She was transported to the Jewish General.

The day before, a 6-year-old Westmount girl was taken to the Montreal Children’s after falling off a balance beam in the playground at Westmount Park around 5 pm. She

was believed to have broken an arm. Her parents said they had been waiting for Urgences Santé for about 25 minutes. When officers spotted an ambulance near Victoria Hall, they guided personnel through the park to the girl’s location.

On April 14, a 47-year-old woman twisted her ankle when she fell to the ground when two rambunctious dogs knocked into her at the Westmount Athletic Grounds. The dogs were being walked on leash at the time but had been playing aggressively with each other.

The mishap took place just after 7 am when the woman was walking near the tennis courts opposite 83 Hollowell. Officers examined the injury and waited with her until the arrival of an ambulance at 7:29 am.



An ambulance with a patient inside pulls away from outside 345 Victoria the afternoon of April 17.
Photo: Staff



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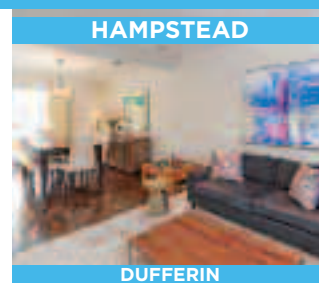
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Prince Albert project to feature new email info alerts

cont'd. from p. 1



Public Works assistant director Elisa Gaetano, left, and District 4 Councillor Rosalind Davis address residents at the Prince Albert meeting April 16.

residents. She hoped it would help them plan their summers, especially if they had

scheduled special events such as a wedding, she added.

This work consists of installing new Bell and Hydro conduits and relining the water main.

Close to 20 residents, including some from nearby cross streets, voiced concerns over possible disruptions to Bell, electricity and water networks as well as the impact of work on parking and accessibility to the street and dwellings.

This year's portion of the project involves underground infrastructure work only, for a duration of 26 weeks, June through November.

"If you run a business, you need internet," stated one of at least two residents who said they work from home.

With the exception of some water closures, Bell and Hydro Westmount services would be maintained, they were assured by Public Works assistant director Elisa Gaetano, who described the scope of the project.

Existing Bell and Hydro cables would be inserted "live" into new conduits (pipes) so that no service interruptions were expected.

One traffic lane would stay open for southbound vehicle traffic only and park-

ing permits would be issued for special reserved parking on Chesterfield from Victoria to Claremont (see highlights April 21, p. 1).

In the event of water closures, notices would be delivered 24 to 48 hours ahead of time, Gaetano explained. Temporary water lines would be connected to hydrants during the work, which led to concerns from one resident as to the accessibility of his property, which has a hydrant.

On tap for summer 2016 is reconstruction of the road bed, asphalt surface and sidewalks as well as installation of new Washingtonian street light standards. This plan is still "a work in progress," she explained. It would include any sewer-related work such as new catch basins.

The possible addition of a special storm drainage system is still in the design stage, the *Independent* learned last week. A separate storm water system for the future is an initiative from retiring Public Works director Marianne Zalzal (see story April 21, p. 5).

"A new step" in the information process is being implemented this year to provide residents with regular email updates from the city so they would know "what was going on" continued on p. 5



OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY 2-4

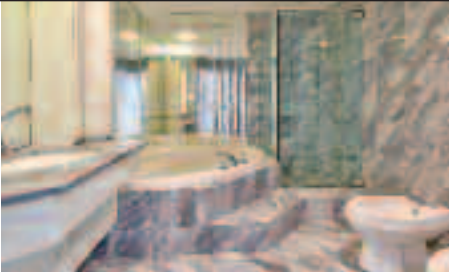
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Prince Albert cont'd. from p. 4

– and if nothing is, why,” Davis said.

To sign up for these and to make ongoing inquiries, residents may contact the city's point person for the project, engineer Michel Gagné, who was introduced at the meeting. He may be reached at 514.989.5543 or mgagne@westmount.org.

Because Bell is working under a city permit, Gagné will also be residents' contact for this work.

Anyone on the street with lead water service entries will have the opportunity to replace the portion on private property this summer at their own expense but at the same time the city replaces the public portion of the entry, which “may” help reduce some of the cost.

On the other hand, residents who might need a gas connection were encouraged to arrange to have it done now, they were also told. This would avoid cutting into the new concrete when the road is reconstructed next year.

In response to other residents' concerns at the meeting held at the Westmount recreation centre, Gaetano said that that water pressure should not change after the work. Any widening of sidewalks would come from the road side rather than the house side. The city's objective to build five-foot wide sidewalks accommodates

plows of that size.

Details of work

Describing this summer's time line, Gaetano said Bell would require eight weeks to lay a new conduit into which the current cable would be lowered and inserted through a slit, always working on the east side. The west side would remain open.

Bell work is to include reconstruction of a manhole at the southwest corner of the street at Côte St. Antoine and abandonment of the one at the corner of Chesterfield.

Next in sequence comes Hydro Westmount's work, to take 10 weeks under the west side of the street. This will allow for traffic to use the east side. Its work includes new conduits and the reconstruction of two manholes on Prince Albert at Chesterfield and St. George's Place. The existing cable would remain “live” throughout.

Another eight weeks would be required for the city's water works (aqueduct). This will involve the relining of the water main installed by Montreal – relatively recently in 1974 – and made of copper. This work includes 13 excavation pits, replacement of three valves, the reconstruction of one valve chamber and a temporary water network provided by hoses from hydrants.

Braemar showcased at WHA

Homeowner Sharon Azrieli stands in her 160-year-old mansion called Braemar April 17, the day after a Westmount Historical Association lecture on her house. It was the third in its spring lecture series focussing on efforts to preserve heritage interiors. Azrieli and her husband Avi Perez purchased Braemar about four years ago. At the time, she said it was a dilapidated heritage house. She explained that much of the old property has been preserved or reused, such as some of the floors, part of the staircase railing and the old beams. Original windows have been opened up, the dormer windows rebuilt in the roof, mouldings and decorative features have been restored and many of the finishings have been replicated respecting the original design. There is still a lot of exterior work being done, Azrieli said. It was built in 1847 by architects George Browne and William Footner. Photo: Ralph Thompson

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OKAY TO REMOVE TREES?

Regarding the article “32 ‘unsound’ city trees removed after council ‘okay’” (April 21, p. 7), these trees, mostly maples, were cut down because, according to Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture and arboriculture inspector, they were “reaching the end of their life cycle.”

With no disrespect to the head arboriculturist, I would very much appreciate the information – presumably given to the accommodating council – explaining the fatal symptoms of these majestic trees.

To the untrained, nature-loving eye, these beautiful trees exhibited no disease or propensity to cause injury or damage by falling across unsuspecting pedestrians, motorists or garage roofs.

The city paid close to \$30,000 to accomplish the most recent pre-emptive surgical strike, which replaced mature trees with saplings, and I would like to understand why.

At the western border of Westmount (one of the wealthiest cities in Canada, as far as per capita income is concerned), a bit of horticultural magic takes place. Immediately over the frontier into NDG, the streets descending from Côte St. Antoine

to Sherbrooke St. boast magnificent maples, which form beautiful canopies in the summer, shading the homes and keeping their residents cool, and providing a wind break in the winter. According to scientific research, this natural shelter results in substantial energy savings.

In contrary fashion, the streets in Westmount display a few large trees and a plethora of six-inch saplings, foliage more appropriate to new housing developments in the suburbs. Conspiracy theory is hardly my line, but it was not lost on me that the 32 “unsound” trees were removed in February; no leaves would alert citizens that the trees were *not* dead.

Would it be unreasonable to suggest that when a host of mature trees is destined for replacement, a notice be placed on the trunks – signed by the city horticulture and arboriculture inspector – with the tree’s scientific and common name, perhaps providing the reason for their removal?

I’ve been a resident of Westmount for 45 years, and practised dentistry for a similar length of time. If I had ever told an elderly patient that his asymptomatic, vital, un-diseased tooth had to be removed be-

cause it was structurally “unsound,” I would have had some explaining to do.

I believe that a maple tree attains its fully mature and splendid growth at three to four decades, and endures between 80 and 100 years – not unlike the average human.

I’m hoping that my own concluding life cycle won’t be prematurely truncated – and that I can keep sight of my venerable timbered peers until it’s really time for them to go.

MARTIN EIDINGER, THE BOULEVARD

FIX THE TIMING OF LIGHTS

I used to live on Grosvenor above Sherbrooke and remember my frustration with commuters speeding through Westmount streets with little concern for local residents.

So, I understand the will of the community to try to discourage commuters from using Westmount’s streets. However, I think the system in place (if intentional) is not ideal.

I currently live in Montreal West and take the train three out of four seasons. In the summer, I like to ride my motorcycle to work downtown. In the past I could take St. Jacques to the Ville Marie. Due to what seems like permanent construction, I no longer have this option.

Therefore, I, like many others, have to go through Westmount. Sherbrooke makes the most sense as it does not go through many school zones (St. Catherine) and it isn’t residential (Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard).

However, the lights are never properly timed. I have to stop at nine of approximately 12 red lights between Claremont and Greene Ave. in the mornings. By comparison, I only have to stop at three between Greene and Peel.

I think properly timed lights with strict speed reduction measures would be safer than having frustrated drivers either speed up from red light to red light hoping to beat the next one or zooming through residential and school zones.

ERIK ROSS, MONTREAL WEST

Perfectly camouflaged, a barred owl makes a home in Summit Woods



A “huge” barred owl is seen through the lens of Westmounter Derek Drummond, a frequent walker of Summit Woods March 27. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, these owls with their distinctive absence of ear tufts, “roost quietly in forest trees during the day, though they can occasionally be heard calling in daylight hours. At night they hunt small animals, especially rodents, and give an instantly recognizable ‘Who cooks for you?’ call.”

Photo courtesy of Kathryn Stephenson/Derek Drummond

Correction

As part of the Retail Watch column (April 7, p. 28), it was reported that Collange Lingerie was “opening a second location” on Greene. In fact, Collange Deux,

which opened on that street March 23, is the only location for the lingerie store. Its Ogilvy-based store closed in February.

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Guest column

Improvements needed to Vendôme/MUHC accessibility plan

BY MAUREEN KIELY AND GHADA ZAKI

Recently we discussed in this space (March 3, p. 7) the lack of a permanent, handicapped-accessible entrance from the Vendôme Metro to the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) at the Glen. New information indicates that Quebec Transport minister Robert Poëti will announce shortly that the provincial government is ready to release the funds needed to build a second permanent entrance at Vendôme, which will include facilities for those with limited mobility.

This is welcome news for West End residents, MUHC employees, patient and visitors. However, due to the complexities of the site where the new entrance is to be located (beneath the railway line, above the Metro tunnel), construction time for this entry is projected to be approximately four years from start to finish.

Need transitory measures

The Concertation Inter-quartiers (CIQ), realizing that it will be many years before an entrance to the Glen site is available for those with limited mobility and for families with young children, requested that the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) put in place the necessary transitory measures required to service these populations.

On April 23, the STM issued a press release saying it will direct all MUHC-bound passengers with mobility issues to travel to the Lionel Groulx Metro station as this facility is equipped to handle handicapped clients. Low-floor buses will transport passengers from Lionel Groulx to the MUHC via a newly created bus route 77, which will bring passengers directly onto the Glen site. This route will be inaugurated on May 11 and will operate each day from 6 am until 9 pm.

However, the STM has also indicated that it has no plans to provide buses from the current Vendôme station (located north of the railway line) to the MUHC.

The STM noted, in its announcement, that the buses on routes 37, 90, 102, 104, 105 and 124 all make stops at the Vendôme station whilst routes 17, 420 and 371 have stops on Decarie Blvd near the Glen. Additionally, the 78 bus stops on St. Jacques at Decarie.

Unfortunately, the walking distance from the Vendôme station to the MUHC is considerable for those who are physically

unable to use the existing underground stairs and train tunnel. Furthermore, the topography of the streets from de Maison-neuve west to Decarie and from Decarie south to Crowley is a slope, thereby making it very difficult for those in wheel-chairs, with strollers, walkers or canes to make their way to the hospital, particularly in bad weather.

Since the CIQ foresees that there will be significant numbers of MUHC-bound passengers with mobility issues who will arrive at the Vendôme station via the low-floor buses on the above-mentioned routes adequate measures should be in place so as to allow these persons to complete their journeys to the MUHC safely and easily. The CIQ is of the opinion that such passengers require transport directly onto the Glen site.

On a more positive note, the STM has assured the CIQ that they have on hand adequate numbers of low-floor buses to meet the daily requirements of passengers travelling to the Vendôme station.

The CIQ calls upon government and hospital officials to work together with community representatives to improve the current plans for temporary access at the Vendôme Metro station.

Maureen Kiely is acting co-president of the Westmount Municipal Association. Ghada Zaki is a community organizer with the NDG Community Council. They are representatives from two of nine organizations that comprise the Concentration Inter-quartiers, which was created in 2000 with the objective of ensuring the seamless integration of the MUHC at the Glen site into the surrounding communities of St. Henri, NDG and Westmount.



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Westmount hockey crowns adult league champions

By MICHAEL MOORE

Westmount hockey capped off its 2014-15 campaign by crowning the champions of its Senior and Executive adult recreational divisions earlier this month.

The Wild won their best-of-three final to skate away with the Senior A division trophy while the Sharks triumphed in the Senior B final to take the division crown.

Though composed of different players, teams named MD made a clean sweep of the city's 35+ divisions, triumphing under the round robin format to capture the Executive A and Executive B trophies.



The Wild triumphed in the Senior A division final. From left, back row: Ben Belec, Matthew Stephens, Jonathan Leblanc, Michael Groszman, Raph Leider, Jason Hlopasko, Jarret Stewart; kneeling: Thomas Houlton, Michael Marjaba (goalie), Justin McManus (captain), Phil Nadeau; sitting: Brandon Pinchuk.

Photos courtesy of Sports and Recreation department



The Sharks swept the best-of-three Senior B final. From left, standing: Peter Guay, Paul Starr, Geoff Donaldson, Derrek Nador, Max Castle, Daniele Gaiotti, Marc Ordonelli, Eric Mailhot; kneeling: Ross MacDougall, Hubert Savoie, Denis Jasmin, Nicholas Timmins, John Kreuzer, Robert David (captain).



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Police Report

Robbery suspect shoves, punches victim during escape

By MICHAEL MOORE

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

A 25-year-old armed robbery suspect allegedly shoved and hit his victim when she tried to confront him and regain her stolen phone and tablet on April 7.

According to a police report, the 32-year-old victim briefly stepped outside of her office in a building on St. Catherine near Dorchester, leaving behind her bag. While she was gone, the suspect, described as a 5'6-tall black male of medium build, reportedly reached into it and took her phone and tablet.

When the victim returned, she asked the suspect if she could help him with anything, unaware that he had taken her items. After the suspect left, a witness informed the victim about the theft and she ran to confront the man as he attempted to leave the building, an unwise and potentially dangerous choice of actions, according to Constable Adalbert Pimentel.

"Confronting is never recommended. There are too many variables to put yourself at risk for material goods," he said. "Safety is always first, everything else is secondary."

"When facing a situation like this, call 911 and give a play-by-play from a safe distance."

The victim caught up with the man in the hallway and demanded he hand over the items. The suspect denied having taken them, allegedly shoved her out of the way to get past and then punched her when she tried to follow him down the emergency stairs.

After that blow, the victim allowed the

suspect to leave and returned to her office, where she called 911.

A video camera system in the office building recorded both the theft and the subsequent physical confrontation, and pictures of the suspect have been distributed to officers, according to Pimentel.

Urn found in Westmount Park

A silver metallic urn containing ashes was found by a passer-by in Westmount Park on April 20 and turned over to Station 12. Police are asking the urn's owner to contact the station at 514.280.0112 or come in person to 10 Stanton St.

Campbell becomes interim DG in Hudson

The town of Hudson has appointed former Westmount city manager Duncan Campbell as interim director general to head the beleaguered city administration after a series of staff resignations and dismissals.

Campbell was named April 20 to take on the challenge for five months.

He left Westmount January 9 after more than six years at the helm of the city. He had also served as city manager for the Town of Mount Royal and as associate DG in Montreal (see story January 13, p. 8) when all municipalities on the island were merged. during the forced municipal mergers.

"Hudson is a unique community which has had its share of problems over the past two years. It will be a tough but interesting challenge to help the council, administration and residents turn the situation around," he told the *Independent*.

Garneau: Harper government failed middle class



Westmount-Ville-Marie MP Marc Garneau spoke at the Notman House on April 16.

By MICHAEL MOORE

Days before the release of the new 2015 federal budget, Liberal Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau went on the economic offensive during a speech on April 16, slamming the Conservative government's handling of the Canadian middle class.

"Through poor policy choices and reckless spending while the economy was still vibrant, [Prime Minister Stephen] Harper squandered Canada's fiscal security. The recession obviously made it worse, but it was Stephen Harper who made us vulnerable in the first place," he said.

Garneau largely remained on the attack during the half-hour-long speech before some 30 people at the Notman House, a historic building in the Plateau that has

been converted to rental space for local tech start-ups.

The local politician chided the Conservatives for everything from the parliamentary attendance rate of Finance minister Joe Oliver to using taxpayer money to air what he called "partisan" commercials during the NHL playoffs.

During the ensuing 15-minute Q&A session, Garneau expanded more on the alternatives that would be offered by a potential Liberal government, including increasing the percentage of Canadians with a post-secondary education and using federal policies to improve knowledge-based industries.

"Canadians are ready to embrace a change. With his plan and his team, [Liberal leader] Justin Trudeau is ready to offer them that opportunity," said Garneau.

Intoxicated man hits head, taken to hospital

A "very intoxicated" man was taken to hospital April 12 after he fell backward striking his head in Tupper lane behind 4060 St. Catherine, Public Security officials said. He was one of three itinerants who appeared to be sleeping there when approached by an officer at 11:57 pm. A man and woman left the scene, but the man, whose legs were protruding dangerously into the path of vehicles, had trouble standing and fell. Urgences Santé was called to transport him.

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WESTMOUNT BELMONT AVE.	ASKED \$1,395,000
WESTMOUNT CLARKE AVE	ASKED \$1,285,000
WESTMOUNT BELMONT AVE.	ASKED \$7,000/mo
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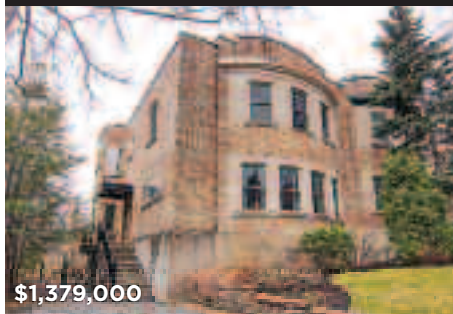
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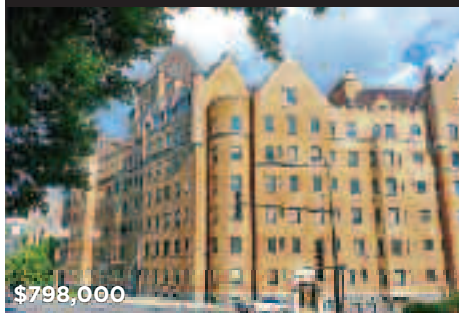
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Place K marks 100 b-day with harp concert



Place Kensington resident Gertrude Birchwood, seen seated in front, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 21 surrounded by members of her family while being serenaded by Montreal harpist Olga Gross (far left). Birchwood was born on April 21, 1915 in Brno, Czechoslovakia which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. She is seen here with her daughter and son-in-law, Monica and Barry Shapiro (third and second from right) of Westmount, and her son, Henry of Orlando, Florida.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Moody and Stokes-Rees Manoir Westmount's volunteers of the year



Residents Yvonne Moody, left, and Margaret Stokes-Rees pose in front of the volunteer window at Manoir Westmount April 15.

BY HEATHER BLACK

On April 15, Manoir Westmount residents Yvonne Moody and Margaret Stokes-Rees were honoured at the annual volunteer appreciation tea.

The two were presented with the 2015 award for "Outstanding Volunteer Service" by manager Tom Thompson and activities coordinator Simona Buth, who commented, "It is impossible to know how many people they have touched over the years, not only in the residence but in the community as well."

As a volunteer for over five years, Moody has been the residence's "Mrs. Claus," as well as active in the daffodil campaign, Philippines disaster relief, Salvation Army clothing drive, resident coun-

cil and a nominating committee chair.

Stokes-Rees, a volunteer for over 10 years, often played the piano or organ at residence events and participated in the choir, daffodil campaign, world day of prayer committee, resident council and was nominating committee chair twice.

Their names will be added to Manoir's plaque for outstanding service.

High winds blow down tree

A large tree crashed down in high winds April 10 blocking the street at 674 Roslyn and just missing a car, according to Public Security officials. The incident occurred at about 7:46 pm. Patrollers blocked the street until a Public Works loader was able to push the tree to the side. A tree crew was requested.

Compromise reached in parking dispute

The drivers of two cars became embroiled in a dispute over a parking spot on Chesterfield, April 17, Public Security officials said. After officers discussed the issue with them shortly before noon, it was decided that neither would get the spot.

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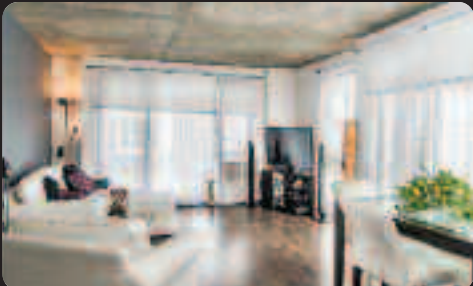
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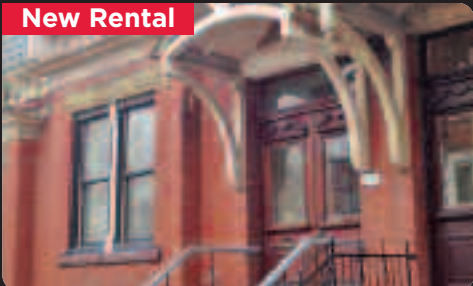
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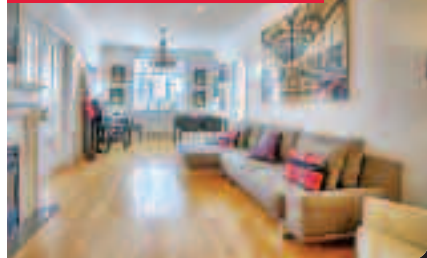


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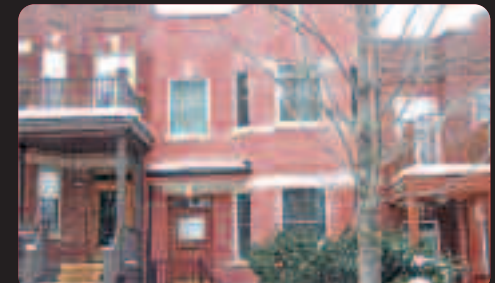
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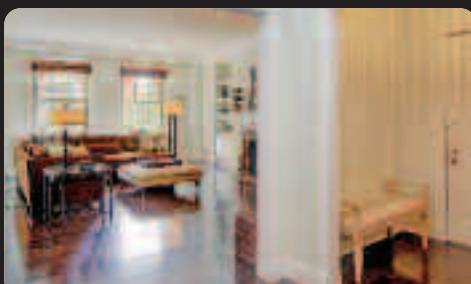
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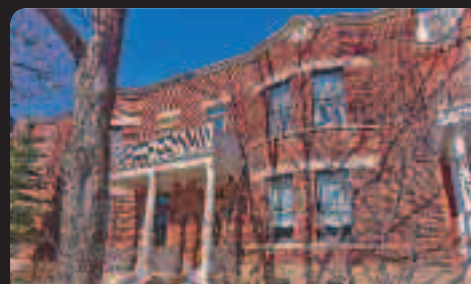
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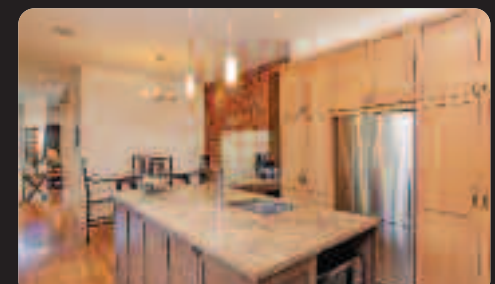
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Memorabilia, photos document arrival of newcomers

Renaud's new book produces new stories from Halifax's Pier 21

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Over a period of 43 years, more than a million newcomers to Canada and half a million military personnel passed through Pier 21 in Halifax on trans-Atlantic crossings. Among them was Black Watch captain Thomas Delaney, Westmount author Anne Renaud's uncle.

And his experience, along with those of refugees from war-torn countries, war brides, children sent to Canada for wartime protection and others, helped spark her interest in the immigration shed (a receiving and processing centre) that has since become a Canadian museum and National Historic Site.

To help their stories come alive, Renaud, who works as executive assistant to Mayor Peter Trent at city hall, has spent the last two years delving back into their personal experiences to expand and update an earlier version of her book on Pier 21. The result came off the press last month including numerous illustrations and memorabilia.

Pier 21: Stories from Near and Far targets

readers aged 9 to 12, but its numerous capsules of historical background provide interesting reading for all ages.

Renaud's decision to widen the scope of her research resulted in part from interest shown in her previous work by a new publisher and "because Pier 21 played such a big role in the history of our country," she told the *Independent*.

"I keep thinking that each one of their stories explains why they came here. Each decade saw new reasons and brought people here from many different countries."

Before, after Pier 21

In the days before Pier 21, she writes, so many immigrants had landed in Halifax that by 1881 the Canadian government declared it an official port of entry. This led to the construction of a special pier and shed to receive them, called Pier 2.

With World War I, Halifax became the busiest port in Canada and a hospital was added to the shed to treat the returning wounded soldiers.

But in 1917, when a munitions ship and another collided in the harbor causing the Halifax Explosion, Pier 2 was destroyed along with the entire north end of the city, killing 2,000, injuring another 9,000 and leaving thousands more homeless.

The result was the construction of Pier 21, opened in 1928 and finally closed as an immigration shed in 1971 with the shift to air travel.

Among the stories of some of the newcomers Renaud relates are those of the 100,000 "home children" – orphans or those whose parents sent them from England to live and work in Canada at the end of the 1930s in the hopes they would have a better life here.

Depicted among the many illustrations are immigration identifications cards, photos of war brides, an ocean liner's dinner



Anne Renaud displays the updated version of her book Pier 1: Stories from Near and Far.

menu from 1946, Red Cross workers in Pier 21's nursery and an identification tag marked "orphan" for a child who had survived the Holocaust.

News clippings are also included of world-wide crises and revolutions that brought more refugees through Pier 21.

"The book will be launched when I go to Halifax next May (2016)," she said. This will take place in conjunction with an exhibit at Pier 21 on the *Empress of Ireland*.

The sinking of the *Empress of Ireland* in the St. Lawrence River in 1914 was the subject of her book called *Into the Mist* launched in 2010 (see story December 1, 2010, p. 1). From 1906 to 1914, the ocean liner had carried more than 115,000 im-

migrants to Canada.

Renaud will tour Nova Scotia schools for one week to give presentations on her books about the *Empress of Ireland* and Pier 21.

"The diversity of the people who crossed the threshold of Pier 21 mirrored the tumultuous times that spanned the 43 years of the immigration shed's existence," she writes. "Every person had a story all their own, and each one has left an imprint on the fabric of our country."

And just like her other books, the new *Pier 21* is now available at the Westmount Public Library.

Renaud has been writing for young people for 15 years.

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Michaels guest at Words & Music



Author Sean Michaels, left, and theremin player Aleks Schürmer at Victoria Hall April 15.

By RALPH THOMPSON

Author Sean Michaels was the special guest at the Westmount Public Library’s “Words and Music” event held at Victoria Hall April 15. An audience of more than 200 attended.

Us Conductors garnered Michaels a 2014 Scotiabank Giller prize.

He brought along theremin player Aleks Schürmer and accompanist Kelly Hogan, who wowed the audience, both musically and literally, with extracts from classic works.

As the mesmerizing strains of music echoed through the concert hall, audience

members craned their necks and many walked approached to get a better view of Schürmer gently waving his hands around the antenna of the theremin, an electronic musical instrument played without physical contact.

“I was introduced to music at an early age, playing recorder and clarinet at school,” said Michaels. “As a music enthusiast and blogger, I knew of the theremin, but one day I was driving in my car, listening to an operatic aria on the radio. When the music ended, the CBC announcer explained that the music was played on the theremin. I was hooked. The end result was *US Conductors*.”

ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines – thoughts about the Earth

“The Weight of a Falling Sky” by Barbara Kingsolver in *Ms.*, winter 2015, p. 42-47. The acclaimed author investigates the impact of climate change on women globally – and the creative ways that women are lifting up their communities.

“Mindful Food Revolution: The New Farmers” by Donna Nebenzhal in *Mindful*, April 2015, p. 44-55. They’re young, highly educated, motivated, and mostly come from non-farming families. And what they’re trying to accomplish – producing sustainably grown local food on a larger scale – could well improve the way we eat, the way we feed our communities and our long-term health.

“La bombe pergélisol” by Raymond Lemieux in *Québec Science*, March 2015, p. 13-15. Dans le nord du Québec, sous les pattes des lagopèdes et des caribous, se trame une catastrophe. Si elle se produisait, les changements climatiques seraient gravement accélérés.

E-books

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson – The gripping and dramatic retelling of 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, a luxury ocean liner bound for Liverpool out of New York during WWI.

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald – As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books, including T. H. White’s tortured masterpiece, *The Goshawk*, which describes White’s struggle to train a hawk as a spiritual contest. When her father dies and she is knocked sideways by grief, she becomes obsessed with the idea of buying

and training her own goshawk.

Livres numériques

Les fantômes de la Sierra Maestra by Paul Ohl – A portrait of Cuba in the 1950s. The reader will meet the young Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, but, also, famous people who were drawn to the island such as Ernest Hemingway and Jean-Paul Sartre.

Fenêtres sur la nuit by Dan Vyleta – A string of unsolved murders in an apartment building in Nazi-occupied Vienna has thrown the occupants into a state of uneasy watchfulness and Dr. Anton Beer has been asked to investigate.

Adult Books – Digitalness

Digital Destiny: How the New Age of Data Will Transform the Way We Work, Live, and Communicate by Shawn DuBravac – The world’s mass adoption of digital technologies portends the beginning of a new era for humanity in the realms of economics, health, travel and culture. In this new digital age, technology will solve our most ancient problems, create new challenges and transform life as we know it.

Mind Change: How Digital Technologies Are Leaving Their Mark on Our Brains by Susan Greenfield – In this world, our screen technologies are increasingly where we work, unwind, relieve our boredom and learn. When toddlers are given iPads, and adults spend ten hours a day staring at a screen, can we afford to assume that our brave new screen technologies are harmless tools? Blending a wide range of scientific studies, news events and cultural criticism, *Mind Change* presents an incisive snapshot of the global “now.”

Adult French – New essays

Les barbares: essai sur la mutation by Alessandro Baricco – What are the effects of the assaults of the present times on our culture? *continued on p. 22*

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481 Victoria: One of the first John Hand houses



History by the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

Among the first groups of houses to be constructed in Westmount by John Hand was the strip of townhouses stretching down the east side of Victoria between what are now Windsor and Chesterfield avenues.

Hand, who is noted for his lovely woodwork and style coupled with good layouts and timeless design, appears to have started his career in Westmount by buying land on Belmont Ave. below Westmount

Ave., backing onto what is now King George (Murray) Park in 1910. He became a resident of 609 Belmont Ave. in 1912, according to *Lovell's Directory*, then in 1914 he began buying up the land on the east side of Victoria in two transactions covering four 50-foot-wide lots.

Hand and his architect, William L. Wright, designed and built 11 townhouses, from 467 to 487 Victoria, and Wright actually purchased 481 Victoria and lived there for a year.

This section of Victoria started its life as the driveway through the Hurtubise farm, which stretched down the hill from the famous Hurtubise house, built in 1739 on Côte St. Antoine Rd., the original by-way through the parish of Montreal.

In 1847, Antoine-Isae Hurtubise gave the

strip of land on the east side of what was then known as Hurtubise Lane to his brother in law, Ephrem Hudon, who had married Justine-Solomée Hurtubise, who also received the Riverview house (just east of the original farmhouse) as her dowry.

Over the next half century, the family used the sloping land for their farm, apparently, though eventually the land between Côte St. Antoine and St. Catherine St. turned over to Ephrem Hudon, Jr. in 1873. He subdivided it into building lots on either side of the newly named Victoria Ave. Apparently Hudon got into some financial trouble, and in 1882 the courts seized his property, which was picked up by a somewhat questionable group calling itself the "Société de Construction Canadienne de Montréal."

This société, established in 1857, was founded specifically to purchase land, which had been seized for whatever reason – mainly taxes or bankruptcies – which could then be developed or flipped for the benefit of the owners of the organization. The depression of 1873-79 certainly helped their exploits, but it appears the shareholders began squabbling among themselves and trying to bend the rules of the

organization.

By 1883 they were in liquidation and title to the Victoria properties was transferred to Pierre Paul Martin, a merchant, and Jean Baptiste Renaud, an accountant.

Martin and Renaud divvied up the lots between them, and Martin took much of the land above what is now Sherbrooke St., including Lots 215-104 and 215-105, on the east side of the laneway. Three years later in 1886, Martin sold his stake for \$3,000 to *continued on p. 20*

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481 Victoria Ave. taken April 23.

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House history cont'd. from p. 19

Thomas Campbell Bulmer, who is described in the Fyfe/Rutherford family blog as one of the important forces in (western) Westmount's early development: "When his school days were over, Thomas Campbell Bulmer served an apprenticeship to the book binding trade, became proficient as a workman, and in 1868 joined Henry Morton and Charles Phillips in a partnership under the style of Morton, Phillips and Bulmer. A few years prior to his death, Bulmer withdrew from that connection, in which he had realized a handsome profit, to engage in the real-estate busi-



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ness at Westmount. He was recognized as the father of that beautiful suburb, having been one of the first men to foresee the value of that section as a residential district. He was actively engaged to the time of his death in its improvement, development and upbringing and made it one of the most beautiful suburban districts of Montreal."

Bulmer sold off the two lots on the east side to Joseph Armstrong, described as a "book and shoe jobber," who no doubt was a professional acquaintance. Armstrong held on to the two lots for 11 years before selling them (1898) to Charles S. Campbell, a prominent Montreal lawyer, for \$3,300 or 25 cents per square foot.

In 1912, Herbert Dennis Dwyer, who at the time is listed as living at 630 Roslyn Ave., bought the two lots before turning them over, one year later, to Hand, who set about building the row of townhouses stretching down the hill.

As mentioned, the first occupant of 481 Victoria, in 1915, was William Wright, Hand's architect, whose wife purchased the home for \$10,500. She then sold it a year later to Clarence Thomson, one of the pioneers of Montreal's electric industry (he and his brother had formed Fred Thomson & Co. Ltd. in 1913). The price was the same \$10,500. The next buyer was Frank P. Turville, a chartered accountant

who paid \$11,500 for the property in 1919 and settled in for an 11-year stay.

In 1930, Turville sold the rowhouse to Arlene Hussey, wife of Edwin Russel Scott who was secretary-treasurer of William I. Bishop Ltd., a constructing engineering firm in downtown Montreal. Again the price was \$10,500, and included taking over a \$5,000 mortgage that John Hand had originally arranged with Edith Lindsay, wife of Edward H. Carter, as well as a \$2,500 balance of sale to Turville, all at 6.5 percent.

Defaults on loan

Unfortunately, at the height of the Great Depression (1936), Hussey defaulted on the loan, and Turville was forced to take the house back. The deed stipulated that she could live there rent-free for a few months but would have to allow Turville to show the house to prospective buyers or

tenants. It appears from *Lovell's Directory* he was able to rent to a fellow chartered accountant, Frank Willcox, who later purchased the house for \$8,650 in 1938.

Claude Root, manager of the Better Business Bureau of Montreal, purchased the house for \$8,000 from Willcox toward the end of World War II and stayed there until 1971, when he sold to Margaret Irene (Marnie) Slatcher, wife of William David Adams, for an undisclosed amount. The next sale reported a price of \$65,000, though officially the price was, again, "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations."

From there, the price rose more than tenfold until the most recent sale in 2007, to Mark Elkin, a computer engineer with Smartling Inc., and his wife Erin Hurley, assistant director of drama and theatre at McGill University.

APRIL BUILDING PERMITS
What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting April 7.

24 Melbourne: to replace some windows;

58 Chesterfield: at a Category I house, to build a rear extension and roof terrace, replace all windows and doors (on condition the doors and windows facing the street and west are of wood) and erect a detached two-car garage at the rear (see story, p. 21);

360 Kitchener: to redo landscaping in the front, side and rear yards;

1373-1385 Greene: at a Category I building, to renovate the front façade;

510 Victoria: at a Category I house, to redo the landscaping in the front yard;

4216 de Maisonneuve/267 Olivier: at a Category I building, to repair masonry, provided the colour of the flashing matches the sills;

533 Lansdowne: to replace the windows and doors and modify some openings at the rear;

83 Chesterfield: to redo front landscaping;

465 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and the front door;

474 Grosvenor: to create a new opening in the rear wall, install a window and create a new opening in the roof for a skylight;

26 Winchester: to modify some openings on the rear façade.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting April 20.

36 Roxborough: to extend the main living space and basement at the rear;

37 Rosemount: at a Category I house, to build an addition of 9 feet to accommodate a garage opening on Mount Pleasant;

4818 Sherbrooke: to install a sign for "Ayarza";

356 Olivier: at a Category I house, to replace some third-floor windows at the rear;

364A Redfern: at a Category I house, to replace two doors of the rear accessory building;

614 Carleton: at a Category I house, renovations at the rear to include blocking up a window, replacing one in a modified opening and a door;

465 Mount Stephen: to replace windows and two patio doors;

1087 Greene: to replace three basement windows;

53 Forden Ave.: at a Category I house, to modify a basement window opening facing the driveway;

6 Hudson: to enclose an existing masonry carport at the rear and relocate stairs accessing the deck;

83 Chesterfield: to redo landscaping at the side and rear;

50 Bruce: to rebuild the balcony and front stairs and front second-storey balcony.

Permit approved for extension, garage on Chesterfield

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Among building permits approved by city council April 7 is one that will allow for the extension of a Category I heritage-rated house at 58 Chesterfield and the building of a detached two-car garage (see Permits, p. 20).

This semi-detached, gabled house was designed in 1898 by Robert Findlay, architect of the Westmount Public Library, city hall and a number of other houses of the period in Westmount.

The permit enables the owner of the property, which has a large side garden, to add on to the house at the rear, where a

garage is also to be built behind the house facing west.

While some residents of a row of seven other Category I houses next door to the west are known to be disputing the owner's right to access the proposed garage by a passage way they share off Claremont, city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said the owner had produced the city with documentation indicating the property's right-of-passage to this "lane" and had picked up the permit April 14.

Changes to Category I houses undergo particular scrutiny by the city's Planning Advisory Committee in particular when additions are requested.

High winds blow down tree

A large tree crashed down in high winds April 10 blocking the street at 674 Roslyn and just missing a car, according to Public Security officials. The incident occurred at about 7:46 pm. Patrollers blocked the street until a Public Works loader was able to push the tree to the side. A tree crew was requested.

Teens warned against longboarding

Two teens were warned April 14 about the dangers of longboarding down Upper Bellevue, Public Security officials said. A complaint had been received about the activity at 10:10 pm. They were also advised of the city's by-law prohibiting longboarding on city streets. They were aged 18.



City council April 7 approved an extension and a two-car garage to be erected at the rear of this property on Chesterfield as seen April 10 from a passageway off Claremont.



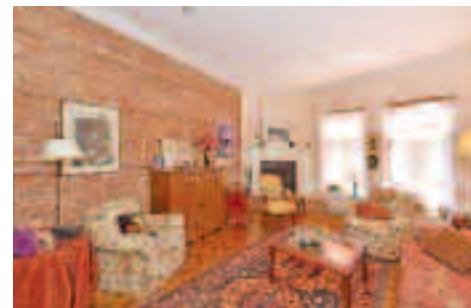
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Police, Public Security face off in charity hockey game

A charity hockey game between teams from Public Security and police from local station 12 was reported to have raised \$280 April 14. It was played at 4:30 pm at the Westmount recreation centre.

By winning 8-5, Public Security enjoyed the right to choose where the money would be donated. It will go to the Contactivity seniors'centre, according to department director Greg McBain.

The game was organized by police community relations officer Stephan Laperrière and Public Security sergeant Robert Forbes and refereed by city director general Mike Deegan. McBain, who coached the Public Security team, and Deegan have previously played in the event. A total of 22 players included some from Public Works.

The money was raised by each player paying \$10 and donations from several others.

'Council on Palliative' gives end-of-life workshop at temple



Registered nurse Sue Britton helped lead a group discussion at Temple Emanu El-Beth Sholom on April 13, following the screening of a documentary film dealing with end-of-life issues. It was the second of three workshops being presented by the synagogue's council on palliative care. The next series is to start in the fall.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Mutsumi Takahashi addresses ethical and operational issues raised in the contemporary media environment in a discussion led by W. David Angus, with an introduction by Mayor Peter Trent, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Susan Doherty Hannaford, author of *A Secret Music*, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Empty Bowls, the annual Unitarian Church of Montreal fundraiser to fight hunger, 11 am to 2 pm at the church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free entry. Bowls \$25.

Shelves cont'd. from p. 18

This is the question that the author of *Soie* and *Novecento* asks in this semi-serious essay, which is a reflection on the progressive replacement of a classical culture by the modernity brought by new technologies.

La fin des vaches sacrées: réflexions sur l'avenir du Québec by Claude Castonguay – What kind of a heritage are we leaving to the next generations? Why is the Quebec model dysfunctional? The "father" of Quebec's health card answers these questions and proposes a number of new orientations for Quebec.

Performing arts on film

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" – Lewis Carroll's ever-popular story provides the basis for a spectacular work from the Royal Ballet, which features an engaging and passionate score as well as breathtak-

ing choreography.

"Les contes d'Hoffmann" – This production of Offenbach's opera was presented in Barcelona, with the support of the Symphony Orchestra of the Gran Teatre del Liceu. It features innovative sets and the great Nathalie Dessay as Antonia.

Picture books about spring for children

Les oiseaux du Québec by Jérôme Carrier – 24 species of Quebec birds are featured in this beautifully photographed book for young children.

Finding Spring by Carin Berger – A bear cub sets off from home to look for spring!

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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Big challenges require leadership



Our Man in Ottawa

MARC GARNEAU, MP
FOR WESTMOUNT-
VILLE MARIE

So now that the federal budget is finally out, Canadians can decide for themselves whether it's a plan that addresses their concerns about jobs, retirement security, the environment and so on.

Not much in this budget came as a surprise. Last fall, the prime minister pre-sold what he thought would be a sure winner with Canadians: family tax benefits, which incidentally also included a \$2-billion income-splitting plan that will only benefit 15 percent of Canadians. He did this before knowing whether he would

achieve a surplus budget after seven straight deficit budgets, which have added \$150 billion to the national debt or \$4,400 dollars for every man, woman and child.

And then the price of oil plunged, losing half its value. This has stalled growth and underlined the importance of federal measures that will actually stimulate economic growth and diversify our economy so that we are not so dependent on our natural resources. There is precious little in the budget to address this major concern.

Nevertheless, on April 21, the prime minister did announce a razor-thin surplus budget in the coming year because frankly, he had staked his future on it. This was made possible by deliberately reducing the \$3-billion contingency reserve to \$1 billion, keeping EI premiums higher than they should be, withholding government program money and selling GM shares. Incidentally we won't know until sometime in 2016 (i.e. *after* the election) whether this year's budget is actually balanced. With this government's track record, don't be surprised if it is not.

Short-sighted

One element that characterizes most of the budget's measures is short-sightedness. This government is thinking ahead no further than the next election.

Boys ring, run and apologize

Two Westmount boys were found ringing doorbells and then running away on Melbourne and Arlington April 8, Public Security officials said. They were caught after an Arlington resident called in a complaint at 4:48 pm. Officers found and approached the boys asking them to apologize to the residents, which they did. They were aged about 10.

The budget includes measures that will drain revenue from future governments when all indicators are we will have big challenges facing us that will require federal leadership, for example: an ageing population and the associated health care costs; a stagnant economy that is especially poor at creating good-paying jobs for our young people; crumbling infrastructure that requires major reinvestment; the need to switch from fossil fuels to cleaner technologies; a strategy to improve outcomes for First Nations; the need to address Canada's economic competitiveness and improve the skills of our workers; the modernizing of Canada's military, etc.

Ignoring these challenges will lead to a less fair and less secure Canada and, make no mistake; the consequences will affect all of us, although certainly some more than others.

If the economic picture does not change substantially in the coming six months, the budget delivered last week is probably the Conservative platform for the October election.

The question now facing Canadians is whether the government's budget is focused sufficiently on economic growth and improving the prospects of the middle class, as Liberals believe it should be, or whether it's an election-style budget focused more on pleasing those who are already better off and ignoring the challenges facing Canada in the coming years.

Dog escapes through fence – again

A dog owner on Springfield was ticketed \$76 April 8 for letting the dog run loose after it escaped through a hole in the fence and was found on the sidewalk at noon at 184 Côte St. Antoine, Public Security officials said. At least two previous similar offences had been reported.

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Canadian premiere of internationally renowned artist



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Isabelle de Mévius**, along with Ambassador **Mihailo Papazoglu** from the embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Ottawa, welcomed guests to a champagne reception honouring Vladimir Velickovic. The internationally renowned artist came in from Paris for the Canadian premiere of his work at 1700 La Poste on a chilly March 18. Housed in a former post office, it is Griffintown's newest contemporary art space, and what a space it is! The soaring ceilings and second-floor foyer flooded with light were perfect backdrops for Velickovic's massive canvases and drawings. The 100-year-old building has been beautifully restored by de Mévius, owner and artistic director of 1700 La Poste. She

curated the exhibition and published a hard-cover catalogue on the show. Westmounters noted in the packed rooms included **Louise and Michel Blouin** (regretting returning from the warmth of Florida); **Richard Burnett**, photographer **Gabor Szilasi**, **Andrée Tessier** and artist **Leo Ross-Handler**, along with former Westmounters **Georges Remus** and **Louis Villeneuve**. Also seen were gallerists **Robert Poulin** and **Pierre-François Ouellette**; artist **Louis Boudreault**; **Puelo Gregory Deir**; **Suzanne Sauvage**, director McCord Museum; **Bernard Colas** and **Marie-Josée Labrie**; **Yelka Acimovic**; designer **Michel Dallaire**; **Tatyana Reeves**; **René Rozon**, director FIFA (Festival International du film sur l'art); **Danièle Patenaude** and **Chantal Charbonneau** from the Musée d'art contemporain; and **Roger Lupien** and **Marie-Christine Dubé** from 1700 La Poste. The exhibition continues until June 21. Admission is free.

More photos, p. 25.



From left: Vladimir Velickovic, Isabelle de Mévius and Ambassador Mihailo Papazoglu.



Leo Ross-Handler, left, and Andrée Tessier.



Georges Remus, left, and Louis Villeneuve.

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Bensadoun honorary pres of masked fundraiser



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Farha Foundation held its fundraiser on a frigid February eve. Maska-

rade was once again the theme for the 16th edition of the annual night. As per the theme, masked revelers arrived chicly concealed. Those arriving bare-faced were offered a selection of masks ranging from simple black to bling-encrusted, as well as fun one-sided Phantom of the Opera-style masks.

Westmounter **Douglas Bensadoun**, chief creative officer ALDO Group, was honorary president.

The family behind the Farha Foundation was out in force: **Linda Farha**, spokesperson, joined her always elegant mum **Evelyn Farha**, honorary president; sisters **Nancy**, executive director, (there with hubby **Ali Gi-ahchai**); and Westmounter **Carolyn**, vice president.

Their brother **Ron Farha** passed away from AIDS in 1993, but his legacy lives on via the foundation.

Held at Bonsecours



Linda, Carolyn, Evelyn and Nancy Farha.



Linda Smith and Douglas Bensadoun.

Market, the event was sold out as always. The massive building's spacious rooms were divided into seating areas and delicious stations, with food provided by Buonanotte, Le Richmond, Beatrice and Café Ferreira, among others.

Co-emcees were former Montrealer radio host **John Moore** (Newstalk 1010), and **Varda Étienne**, from TVA's "Sucre Salé." M.A.C. Cosmetics used their wondrous way with their on-trend make-up lines and created "heroes" who were, well, just that.

Once again choreographer **Scott Fordham** designed a dynamic dance, which inspired guests to do the same as the night progressed, moving to the tunes of M'Michelle, Soulvation, Toddy and Jojo Flores and Sandy Duperval.

(Who ever said disco was dead? Guests would have danced til dawn if it were not a work-week night.)

At the end of the eve, amazing hamburgers (Back of House) and smoked meat

sandwiches (Schwartz's) helped fortify departing guests.

Westmounters noted included Farha Foundation honorary chair **Aldo Bensadoun**, **Jennifer Campbell**, **Susan Daon** and **Manlio Del Negro**, **Steven Guttman**, **Terry** and **Linda Smith** (chair of 2014 Farha eve), **Richard Burnett** and elegant masked mom **Lillianne**, **Andrew Hops** and **Barry Garber**, as well as **Mike Parker**, **David Bensadoun**, **Anne-Marie** and **Georges Laoun**, **Sonia Benezra**, **Nancy Rahal** and **Chris Kalogeropoulos**, **Scott Yetman**, **Fati Zed**, and Holt Renfrew blogger **Carrie MacPherson**, who accessorized her BBD (basic black dress) with a long, long, long red AIDS ribbon.

The fun eve raised almost \$300,000.

The Farha Foundation distributes money to organizations throughout Quebec that provide services to HIV/AIDS victims.

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Richard and Lillian Burnett.



From left: Jennifer Campbell, Sonia Benezra, Terry Smith and Eva Friede.



From left: Scott Yetman, John Moore and Barry Garber.

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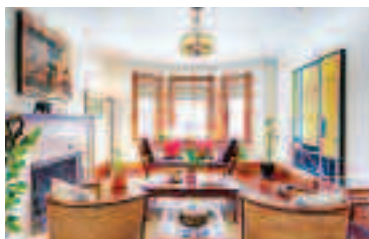
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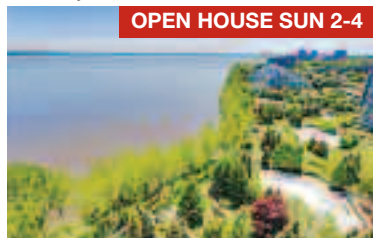
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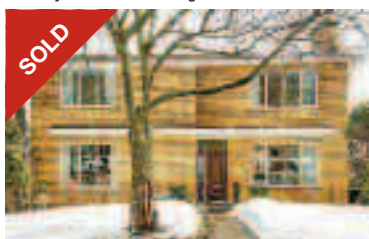
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