

Snow contractors ask city to lift overnight ban

Residents cite safety, efficiency concerns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The sound of overnight snow removal operations may be a plague to some, but it's music to the ears of others as debated at the first city council meeting of the new year, January 14.

A handful of private snow removal contractors, accompanied by a local lawyer, pressed the city to repeal its noise by-law restriction that prohibits their work between 9 pm and 7 am. The cleaning of driveways is safer and more efficient overnight without traffic, school children and parking congestion, they claimed. It

also meets the needs of clients.

"I agree with you completely," stated Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, who represents District 1, where at least nine constituents complained to him recently that they wanted their driveways cleared by 7 am.

Residents and contractors attending the meeting were told that council members had already started discussing the issue earlier that evening and the subject would also be reviewed by city staff.

"If, all night, the city trucks are allowed to work, the private contractors should be too," stated Nina Valery, a resident of Elm. They are doing some- thing to help residents, continued on p. 17

Fire chief Timmons returns to Roslyn



Grade 1 students at Roslyn School gathered around retired Westmount fire director William Timmons at a fire prevention presentation at the school January 15. See story, p. 5.

Photo: Independent

Tax comparison BY ANDY DODGE p. 6

Social Notes BY VERONICA REDGRAVE p. 16

Letters p. 6

Trent urges residents to send in forms

Prince Albert post office on chopping block

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is on the verge of losing the "Victoria Postal Station" at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert, which Mayor Peter Trent says is an everyday anchor that draws people to Victoria village and contributes to its vitality.

Citizens have one month, until February 15, to raise objections to Canada Post in a consultation process.

"I think it's important for people to send in their comments," Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*.

Handouts for comments are to be made available at the post office asking customers for their feedback on the closure, according to an email from Canada Post official Geneviève Latour. This will enable the crown corporation to "explore options that address local concerns." Customers continued on p. 5

Small fire at arena site doused, p. 10.

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NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEETING, JAN. 14

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

'No heroic measures' for cleaning bike path during winter months

When the city decided to keep the bike path open in winter it was said "there would be no heroic measures to clean it," Mayor Peter Trent said at the city council meeting January 14.

He was replying to concerns expressed by Patricia Dumais of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), who stated the cycling path had been cleaned only after snow removal operations were well under way toward the end of the clean-up after recent snowfalls. She also noted that residents shovelled snow from private properties onto the bike path.

City director general Duncan Campbell stated that the bike path would be one of the snow-related issues he would raise with city staff but added that "the city's first priority was to keep streets open for emergency vehicles. There's a method in our madness. We do things in an organized way" even if "it may seem chaotic."

The city's procedure is to clean the bike path at the same time as de Maisonneuve, which typically comes toward the end of a snow operation. In the case of the December 27 snowfall, this was January 3 (see January 15, p. 3).

Dumais said she understood the severity of the storm but thought the bike path "should have been given a little more priority."

Civic honours now every 4 years

Westmount's civic honours will now be awarded every four years, Mayor Peter Trent told the council meeting January 14 in reply to a question by resident Maureen Kiely.

The Vin d'Honneur ceremony, at which new inductees are recognized posthumously, originally took place annually and

Snow clean-up bill jumps to \$1M

Clean-up costs of the December 27 snow storm are now projected to be close to \$1 million once overtime and other internal items are factored in, city director general Duncan Campbell told the city council meeting January 14.

A preliminary estimate the previous week based on the collection, trucking and dumping of snow indicated costs would exceed \$660,000 ("Record storm costs city at least \$660K to clean up, January 15, p. 3).

then every second year, the last one being held in 2009. The event is expensive, however, and is a big undertaking, Trent explained. Kiely said she was pleased it would continue, because "It would be a shame to let it go."

More council news on p. 3.

No news on traffic plan, no plan to rescind ban on protesters

The city has not received the awaited Master Traffic Plan, Mayor Peter Trent confirmed at the city council meeting January 14. It had been expected from consultants by the end of 2012, he told questioner Richard Lock of Lansdowne.

On another of Lock's concerns, he said the city had no intention at this time of rescinding By-law 1423 outlawing the wearing of masks by protesters and other restrictions enacted during the student protests last summer.

The law governing "Public Order and Discipline" had been adopted by Westmount to conform to a similar one by Montreal. "If Montreal changes it, we'll go ahead," Trent stated.

"You can't take a lead?" Lock countered.

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Westmount moves to safeguard bilingual status

Westmount city council January 14 joined a list of other suburbs urging all elected members of the provincial legislature to vote against provisions of Bill 14 that would change the requirements for bilingual status.

The proposed legislation would amend the Charter of the French Language by allowing the government to remove bilingual status by decree against the will of citizens once the population of a municipality's English mother-tongue residents falls below 50 percent.

Council unanimously adopted a resolution stating that Westmount wishes to retain its bilingual status regardless of fluctuations in population and "demands that the Quebec National Assembly con-

tinue to recognize the acquired rights of all municipalities and boroughs that currently possess such status."

Under the proposed changes, half the bilingual municipalities in Quebec (including four island of Montreal suburbs) could lose their status, said Mayor Peter Trent, president of the Association of Sub-

urban Municipalities, which will be presenting a brief to the government.

Under the original 1977 language law, municipalities having a majority of non-French speaking residents could qualify for bilingual status. This was changed by Bill 171 at the time of the forced mergers

to require a municipality or borough to have a majority of English mother-tongue residents to obtain bilingual status. Until the Bill 14 proposal, the status obtained could not be taken away unless requested by a municipality or borough.

No need for another WRC audit: Trent

The Westmount recreation project has been and will be subject to various audits and does not need another one by an independent auditor, Mayor Peter Trent said in a statement at the start of the council meeting January 14.

Replying to a request by arena/pool project critic Patrick Barnard at the December 3 meeting, Trent noted that the city had set up a steering committee that meets weekly to oversee the project's progress, had hired an independent project manager and is subject to annual accounting audits.

As well, the city could expect government auditors to be "all over" the project because of the \$20-million infrastructure grant, so he saw no need to add another audit. "We're going to be audited anyway."

He also pointed out that another resident (David Ludmer) had launched a court case contending the project did not conform to the loan by-law in which a Superior Court judge had said "that we proceeded according to Hoyle."

While not all spending is covered by the \$37-million loan by-law, Trent pointed out that there was "no rule" saying it can't be covered by pay-as-you-go or other means recorded in accounting statements. Any overage *continued on p. 3*

has been minimal, he repeated, about 1 percent of budget (see December 4, p. 1).

When Barnard later asked for total amounts spent on decontamination, Councillor Patrick Martin explained that

not all the excavation work had been completed, notably in the area of the new pool. Every truck load of material had been documented as to its degree of contamination and where it had been taken.

WMA asks for payment list

Peter Starr, Westmount Municipal Association president, asked on behalf of a member if the project's ongoing payments could be posted on the city website. Trent replied that although the contractor Pomerleau Inc. was working on a fixed-price contract, various aspects of payment were being negotiated.

"We can't negotiate in public. We're negotiating all the time."

After Councillor Patrick Martin suggested the city should be able to provide amounts of payments already made, Trent stated that "we can give you numbers, but it won't mean anything because we'll be holding back" certain amounts pending negotiation.

Such payments are already recorded monthly in the city's cheque register approved at council meetings and available to the public.







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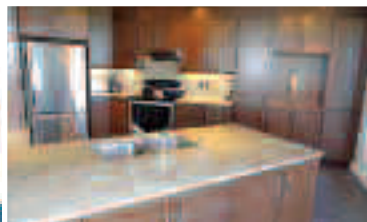


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUT BIKE PATH OUT OF PARK

Council's obsession with keeping the bike path – sunken, no less – in Westmount Park defies reason and common sense.

As our city's website proudly states: "The park was laid out in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted – landscape architect for Mont Royal Park and New York's Central Park – following the natural streams, ravines and wooded areas on the site. A more formal arrangement of the foot paths, fountains, ponds and borders was made in the twenties, which the present day scheme resembles closely. Today, its 26 acres contain a wading pool, extensive playground, beautiful floral plantings, three baseball diamonds, a playing field, and clay and hard-surface tennis courts."

City parks are meant to be areas where people of all ages can engage in recreation and leisure activities without worrying about getting run over by cars or bikes. Seems Montreal got the message. At its meeting of April 19, 2012, the agglomeration council received a report from the Montreal Commission on Transportation and Public Works containing several recommendations concerning the bike path network in Montreal, among them, to get bike paths out of city parks and place them instead on the periphery – to avoid possible conflict between park users and the

bike path network.

Mayor Trent was at that meeting, and I hope he was listening.

Please, give us back our park and put the bike path freeway where it belongs: on the periphery or outside the park!

IRWIN EDELSTEIN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

REGARDING LISÉE'S TALK

I hope that the song and dance, and proposal to build bridges, is not too analogous to those we already have in Quebec, namely lack of integrity, sustainability, and poor maintenance, while another department throws corrosive materials on the whole thing leading only to its ultimate collapse.

KEN LONDON, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Rink out-of-bounds after curfew

Two young Westmount men were found loitering on the rink at Queen Elizabeth park January 9 at 1:22 am, Public Security officials said. Since it was after the midnight parks curfew, they were asked to leave.

Undivided multi-units up more

Slight property tax increases for most home owners



Real estate

ANDY DODGE

This article relates to the survey presented on p. 7.

Most Westmount ratepayers will see only a slight increase in this year's property tax bill – between 1 and 3 percent, though duplex owners and especially triplex owners could see hikes of anywhere from 6 to 13 percent, a survey by the *Independent* has found.

Full apartment buildings and duplex-type condominiums can expect an increase of about 3 percent, though apartment-building condominiums might see their tax bills remain almost static.

Reduction of the tax rate coupled with an increase in the amount of valuations on which that rate is applied means that tax bills will go up for anyone whose current valuation is more than 11 percent higher than it was in 2007, which means almost everybody except, perhaps, those apartment-building condos.

The *Independent's* survey includes some properties whose 2011 valuations were increased substantially to reflect either sales which were seriously out of line with the 2007 valuation or building permits that affected the latest valuation but not the previous one, specifically 11 St. George's Pl. and 30 Thornhill among single-family dwellings, and 3101-03 St. Antoine among duplexes.

In the cases of 474 Wood and 46 Academy #16, condominiums in the same buildings increased by the same percentages, so their condominium co-owners can expect to get the same increases of 4 percent and 3 percent, respectively, in this year's tax bills.

The survey shows that single-family dwellings in mid-level Westmount will have the biggest tax increases within that category, especially homes between West-

mount Ave. and The Boulevard, while houses at the top and bottom of the mountain will experience very small increases. Only one house in the survey, at 24 Anwoth Rd., will have a decrease in the dollar amount of taxes.

The biggest increases appear to have struck the full duplexes and triplexes that have not been subdivided into condominiums yet. This category would presumably include those which are co-owned. With 2011 valuation increases generally 34 percent for duplexes and as much as 78 percent for triplexes, most of them can expect tax increases anywhere from 6 to 11 percent.

Over three years since the new valuation roll has been in effect, the duplexes have experienced 21-percent tax increases and the triplexes 45 percent or higher.

Duplex-type condos, whose valuations are up by only 21 percent compared to full duplexes at 34 percent, have tax increases this year of 3 percent, only half that of their non-co-owned counterparts. Over three years, most of them have seen their tax bills go up by about 9 percent, roughly the same type of increase that many single-family homes have experienced.

Again, the difference in valuation increases between large apartment buildings which have not been condominiumized versus those which were either built as or converted to condos, is significant. The personal units only went up (for the most part) 11 or 12 percent, while the large buildings are up 25 percent, generally. That means the condos see almost no tax increase this year, while the big buildings have 3 percent increases this year, 11 percent over three years.

The hefty commercial rate, which applies partially or totally for different types of commercial buildings based on the percentage of commercial use, generally produces substantial increases in dollar amounts but not necessarily in terms of percentage increases. In some cases, where the percent increase in valuation is 10 percent or less, the buildings actually experience a decrease in taxes this year. For 4858-66 Sherbrooke, the tax paid in 2013 is actually less than it was in 2010 under the former valuation roll.

The taxes calculated here are unofficial and may not represent the actual amounts on any individual tax bill. They are designed to offer comparative information for ratepayers to understand the increases or decreases in their individual tax bills.

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Correction

To clarify and correct the dates of the store closing in "Longtime Sherbrooke St. children's clothing shops call it quits," Zebra, located at 4909A Sherbrooke, is scheduled to close in May, according to owner Debra Johnson.

Selected properties – tax comparison

See related analysis on p. 6.

Address	2007 valuation	2011 valuation	± %	2012 taxes	2013 taxes	% incr.	2010-13 incr
Single-family dwellings							
90 Sunnyside	835,900	952900	14%	9,202.97	9,284.10	1%	3%
758 Upper Belmont	982,400	1119900	14%	10,815.85	10,911.19	1%	3%
59 Belvedere	2,900,000	3306000	14%	31,928.61	32,210.36	1%	3%
110 Upper Bellevue	1,280,000	1459200	14%	14,092.63	14,216.99	1%	3%
3202 The Boulevard	799,500	911400	14%	8,802.19	8,879.77	1%	3%
3781 The Boulevard	1,513,600	1725500	14%	16,664.51	16,811.55	1%	3%
31 Barat	687,200	837800	22%	7,931.13	8,162.69	3%	10%
50 Holton	860,000	1014800	18%	9,699.42	9,887.20	2%	7%
26 Ramezay	1,306,800	1515900	16%	14,563.23	14,769.41	1%	5%
37 Rosemount	891,900	1034600	16%	9,939.43	10,080.11	1%	5%
24 Anwoth	970,100	1067100	10%	10,420.10	10,396.76	-0%	-0%
4306 Montrose	1,160,800	1346500	16%	12,935.92	13,118.95	1%	5%
30 Thornhill	775,000	1055000	36%	9,683.98	10,278.86	6%	23%
18 Forden	1,401,300	1639500	17%	15,710.21	15,973.65	2%	6%
623 Sydenham	1,866,000	2293700	23%	21,661.91	22,347.52	3%	11%
18 Grenville	970,900	1228500	27%	11,506.32	11,969.28	4%	14%
22 Renfrew	1,016,900	1189800	17%	11,400.92	11,592.22	2%	6%
645 Grosvenor	1,082,400	1275000	18%	12,192.76	12,422.33	2%	7%
636 Lansdowne	765,400	941400	23%	8,889.12	9,172.06	3%	11%
464 Roslyn	1,290,400	1548500	20%	14,727.04	15,087.04	2%	9%
490 Côte St. Antoine	1,145,600	1306000	14%	12,613.01	12,724.36	1%	3%
482 Lansdowne	734,300	881200	20%	8,380.59	8,585.53	2%	9%
9 Lorraine	590,100	731700	24%	6,892.91	7,128.95	3%	12%
481 Prince Albert	602,100	725000	20%	6,888.22	7,063.68	3%	9%
11 St. George's Place	494,100	772000	56%	6,841.22	7,521.60	10%	41%
71 Arlington	744,300	910000	22%	8,607.50	8,866.13	3%	11%
202 Côte St. Antoine	980,900	1186900	21%	11,260.61	11,563.97	3%	9%
479 Strathcona	930,100	1116100	20%	10,614.79	10,874.16	2%	9%
371 Claremont	346,000	397900	15%	3,832.64	3,876.74	1%	4%
226 Prince Albert	675,800	777200	15%	7,486.04	7,572.26	1%	4%
307 Grosvenor	552,000	662400	20%	6,299.79	6,453.76	2%	9%
355 Lansdowne	662,200	794600	20%	7,557.20	7,741.79	2%	9%
344 Metcalfe	963,300	1194500	24%	11,252.55	11,638.01	3%	12%
242 Redfern	537,700	645200	20%	6,136.32	6,286.18	2%	9%
351 Olivier	789,300	947200	20%	9,008.29	9,228.57	2%	9%
340 Wood	1,180,500	1404800	19%	13,393.44	13,686.97	2%	8%
111 Blenheim	406,000	462800	14%	4,469.74	4,509.06	1%	3%
164 Hillside	315,700	390100	24%	3,678.57	3,800.74	3%	12%
70 Bruce	582,000	663500	14%	6,407.88	6,464.48	1%	3%
124 Clandeboye	612,200	697900	14%	6,740.19	6,799.64	1%	3%
15-15A Winchester	420,800	563900	34%	5,198.13	5,494.08	6%	21%
107-11 Côte St. Antoine	679,500	910500	34%	8,393.34	8,871.00	6%	21%
430-32 Mount Stephen	704,900	944600	34%	8,707.53	9,203.24	6%	21%
119-21 Irvine	330,600	443000	34%	4,083.72	4,316.15	6%	21%
4266 Dorchester	600,000	761600	27%	7,126.87	7,420.27	4%	15%
3101-03 St. Antoine	208,500	474500	128%	3,885.34	4,623.05	19%	106%
Triplexes							
17-19 Chesterfield	775,000	1253200	62%	11,014.57	12,209.93	11%	46%
458-62 Victoria	509,400	681200	34%	6,283.01	6,636.93	6%	21%
4274-78 de Maisonneuve	536,900	862900	61%	7,595.13	8,407.23	11%	45%
3453-57 St. Antoine	192,100	341100	78%	2,934.73	3,323.34	13%	61%
Duplex-type condominiums							
459 Grosvenor	370,300	448100	21%	4,251.22	4,365.84	3%	9%
69 Hallowell	434,200	525400	21%	4,984.65	5,118.97	3%	9%
4827A St. Catherine	235,400	284800	21%	2,702.12	2,774.81	3%	9%
474 Wood	373,800	474700	27%	4,441.54	4,625.00	4%	15%
25 York	216,300	261700	21%	2,482.93	2,549.74	3%	9%
Apartment-type condominiums							

cont'd. from p. 7.

46 Academy #16	416,500	504000	21%	4,781.57	4,910.47	3%	9%
399 Clarke #204	432,800	480400	11%	4,677.85	4,680.54	0%	0%
4855 de Maisonneuve #504	409,200	454200	11%	4,422.74	4,425.27	0%	0%
200 Lansdowne #502	438,900	509100	16%	4,891.00	4,960.16	1%	5%
267 Olivier #403	466,500	517800	11%	5,042.05	5,044.93	0%	0%
4700 St. Catherine #405	407,000	455800	12%	4,426.10	4,440.86	0%	1%
4175 St. Catherine #804	949,100	1063000	12%	10,322.09	10,356.81	0%	1%
1 Wood #605	1,128,400	1286400	14%	12,423.69	12,533.40	1%	3%
Apartment buildings							
331 Clarke	3,946,300	4932900	25%	52,163.70	53,778.48	3%	11%
100-110 Hillside	1,348,900	1686100	25%	17,830.02	18,381.86	3%	11%
239 Kensington	6,381,900	7231800	13%	78,726.50	78,841.08	1%	1%
3055 Sherbrooke	3,100,000	3875000	25%	40,976.83	42,245.25	3%	11%
4435 Sherbrooke	1,212,100	1515100	25%	16,021.75	16,517.62	3%	11%
4560 St. Catherine	2,805,500	3506900	25%	37,084.22	38,232.22	3%	11%
Commercial buildings							
4048-50 Dorchester	646,800	769700	19%	9,932.05	10,149.85	2%	10%
4858-66 Sherbrooke	2,267,800	2387900	5%	65,425.65	64,382.08	-2%	-0%
4479-81 St. Catherine	372,800	443600	19%	11,703.72	11,960.25	2%	13%
Old Post Office	3,075,000	3368900	10%	115,401.80	115,001.78	-0%	5%
351-53 Victoria	563,100	670100	19%	25,206.04	25,759.31	2%	14%
1231-33 Greene	563,700	670800	19%	25,232.52	25,786.22	2%	14%
1358-60 Greene	600,000	714000	19%	26,857.48	27,446.87	2%	14%
4840 Sherbrooke	3,400,000	3900000	15%	148,325.33	149,919.90	1%	10%
4024-32 St. Catherine	3,200,000	3680000	15%	139,849.60	141,462.88	1%	10%
386-90A Victoria	950,000	1130500	19%	42,524.34	43,457.55	2%	14%
4113-17 Sherbrooke	4,164,000	4750000	14%	180,956.91	182,594.75	1%	9%

Compiled by Andy Dodge



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St. Léon student falls unconscious at school, dies at hospital

BY ISAAC OLSON

A grade-four, St. Léon student suddenly fell unconscious at the school January 9 and died later that day at the hospital.

While declining to give certain details such as the precise date of the incident, Alain Perron, a spokesperson with the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM), confirmed that a student fell unconscious in the schoolyard, 911 was called and the student was transferred by ambulance to the hospital, where she died of natural causes later that evening. The student, he said, had a heart condition. Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier said she knew of the incident, but it was not a police matter and she had no details.

Letter sent to parents

In a French-language letter sent out to parents on January 10 and forwarded to the *Independent* by a recipient, the following note was written by principal Line

Aubin in French: "It is with sadness that we learned of the death of one of our students. Anita Iyoha (4B) died suddenly and unexpectedly. Along with the pain we feel at this loss, we are sensitive to the shock this type of event can cause our students."

Some students, the letter states, will need counselling and the school will be providing professional to help them. The letter encourages parents to contact the school if they are concerned about their child.

Facebook page active

The school's public Facebook page, which acknowledges Iyoha's death by name in a status update, has several comments about the untimely death. On the page, Virginia Elliot, who also works with the Community Events department of the city of Westmount, wrote "Anita was an active and enthusiastic Cub scout with Westmount Park pack. We will miss her."

Bomb scare on Ramezay



Officers from Westmount's Station 12 and the Montreal bomb squad block off an area on Ramezay Rd. while investigating a bomb scare at a home on January 16. Police were called to the property at around 2 pm after someone called in reporting what they suspected was a bomb. Police said it was a fake bomb. Inset: A remote-controlled bomb detection robot leaves the driveway of the property. See story, p. 14.

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith



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Small fire at arena construction site brings out Pomerleau employee and a firetruck



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Minimal damage was caused at the northwest corner of the new Westmount arena/pool construction site on de Maisonneuve near the corner of Lansdowne the evening of January 20. An overturned heater ignited a plastic cover tarp. The fire department put out the blaze.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith



A small firetruck pulls way as a lone Pomerleau employee resurrects the security fence.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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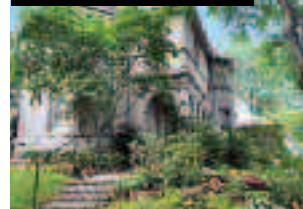
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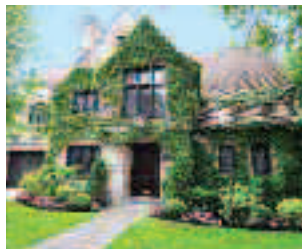
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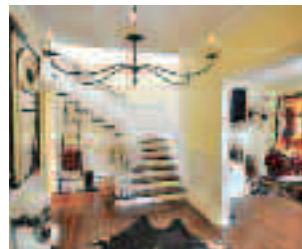
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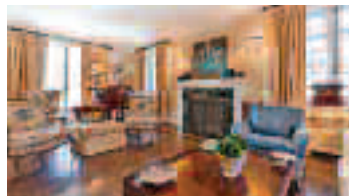
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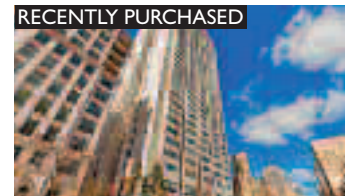
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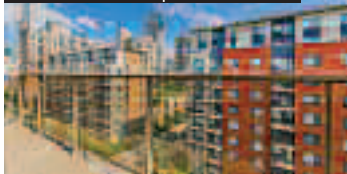


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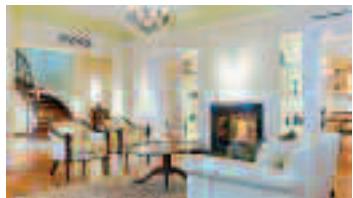
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Station 12 Reports

No leads on postal bomber, Vic village store burglarized

BY ISAAC OLSON

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

Several streets surrounding the intersection of Ramezay and Montrose were barricaded on January 16 after somebody reported a bomb.

While the incident took place just over the border in Montreal, some Westmounters were affected by the scare when police evacuated nearby homes.

Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier said the 50-year-old victim stopped off at the post office to pick up a package as he had recently received notice of the

parcel. Moments later, he stopped by his friend's house for a visit and opened the package.

Inside, said Gauthier, were what appeared to be sticks of dynamite, duct tape and a timer. The box's contents clearly resembled a bomb, she said, so the man put the package outside and called the police.

"It was a big call," said Gauthier, noting a SWAT team was called in to examine the box with a robot. Police were called in from many different stations, she added, to ensure roads were shut down and people evacuated. However, upon investigation, it was discovered that it was actually a fake bomb with road flares posing as explosives.

The victim had no idea why he would receive such a thing by post and he is not

known to police, leading investigators to wonder if it was a prank, said Gauthier. The investigation, said Gauthier, turned up no leads, but, were police to find a suspect, such an act could result in criminal charges.

Police make car thief bust

Earlier this month, Gauthier said Station 11 police apprehended a 48-year-old suspect and charged him with 29 different car break-ins. Police allege Paul Ohwe has been a key player in the boom of car break-ins throughout the area in recent months.

Gauthier said this bust was big enough that it may even slow the number of thefts from vehicles happening on a regular basis as this alleged thief was active in NDG, the southwest borough and Westmount.

Suspects break into store

A small store on Victoria Ave. was burglarized just before midnight on January 4, according to Station 12 constable Adal-

bert Pimentel.

A suspect or suspects broke in through the front door, said Pimentel, and went straight for the cash register. It contained an undisclosed amount of cash. Their movements set off the security alarms but by the time police arrived, nobody was on the scene, and the cash register was empty.

Pimentel said this is why police always recommend that store owners not only empty out their cash registers at night, but leave them open and visible to someone who might peer through the window. This, he said, would deter criminals and lessen the chances of being burglarized.

Pedestrian injured in collision

On January 7 at around 6 pm, a 62-year-old Montreal resident was hit by a car while trying to cross Victoria Ave. just south of Sherbrooke St., said Pimentel.

The woman, said Pimentel, made the unfortunate mistake of trying to cross the street between two parked vehicles. This, he noted, is a dangerous manoeuvre and often causes collisions between drivers and pedestrians because motorists do not see the pedestrians in time. It's important, he said, that people cross at intersections and obey the traffic lights.

The victim, he said, was transported to Montreal General with non life-threatening injuries, such as back pain.

Bus rider falls

On Boxing Day at around 6 pm, a 90-year-old woman fell hard enough to wind up in the hospital while riding a Montreal city bus, said Pimentel.

The bus was pulling away from a stop at Greene and Sherbrooke when she lost her footing and tumbled. She was taken to Mon- *continued on p. 21*

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Viennese Ball welcomes new group of elegant debs



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Held on November 17, the annual Viennese Ball presented débutantes with an elegance reminiscent of a by-gone era. Tickets were \$250.

Clad in identical white gowns created by Westmount designer **Astri Prugger** (present at the event with her husband **John McCaughey**), twinkling tiaras and long gloves, the 16 debs and their escorts starred in the opening waltz – a particularly pretty pageant! The evening was dedicated to **Gustav Klimt**, an Austrian artist representative of Viennese Art Nouveau, who would have celebrated his 150th birthday in 2012.

Please send your information on spring fundraisers to redgrave@videotron.ca for the *Westmount Independent* spring calendar.

The gala was under the patronage and in the presence of the new Austrian ambassador to Canada, His Excellency **Arno Riedel**, and the Austrian consul general in Montreal **Ulrike Billard**, attending with her husband **Bernard**.

Principal sponsors of the evening were Air Transat, RBC Capital Markets and Bombardier. Transat offered the door prize of a trip for two to Paris.

Enjoying the magic of the night were Senator **Walter Netti**, former president of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce and Industry and director of the Vienna Boys Choir; ball president **Harold Scheer** and **Ewa Dorynek-Scheer**; president of the Austrian Society of Montreal **Peter Hill** and **Evelyn Schindler-Hill**; **Rick Evans**, chair of SOS Children's Villages Canada; Austrian trade commissioner **Thomas Glueck** and **Sandra Glueck-Taglieber**; **Christian Schleifer-Heingaertner**, alternate council representative to ICAO and president of the Air Navigation Commission with his wife **Verena**; **Patricia Côté** and **Bill Kalushny**, vice president RBC Capital Markets; **Margot** and **Jean-Jacques Beldié**, president of the Société des Transports de Laval; and **Sherry** and **Sean Ferguson**, dean of McGill's Schulich School



Nicole Cloutier, Michel Lauriault, Lou Fauteux, Elizabeth Wirth and Dave Greiner.

Photo courtesy of Viennese Ball.

of Music.

Westmounters noted included **Rasa** and **Alan Pavilanis**; **Suzanne Crawford** and **Paolo Renzi**; **Milica** and **Michael Vachon**, **Anna Vera Kratochvil**, **Christiane** and **Gérard Mohr**, and former Westmounter **Elizabeth Wirth** with **Lou Fauteux**.

2012 débutantes were **Aidan Ferguson** (escorted by **Honor Lopez**), **Jana Marleen Schwierczinski** (**Laurenzo Chamroeun**), **Jessica Perron** (**Stefan Cloutier**), **Ana Reyero Sosa de la Pena** (**Michael Habrich**), **Eva Kratochvil** (**Max Harmat**), **Brynne Ferguson** (**Jordan Samberg**), **Elise Cloutier** (**Vincent Roy**), **Jade Perle Louis** (**Nicolas Barkun**), **Jahlyssa Gabriel** (**Alexy Iliev Paradis**), **Bernadette Hogg** (**Shayne Lovsin-Couture**), **Rara Asmaradewi** (**Nicholas Sinoyannis**), **Daniela Ioachim** (**Gustavo Albuquerque Neves**), **Isabelle Schumacher** (**Hakeem Samu**), **Grace Wu** (**Lufong Amos Gao**), **Ngoc Bich Le** (**Simon Gagnon**) and **Lahteisha Gabriel** (**Kurwin Poleon**).

Monies raised were to benefit SOS Children's Villages, McGill University's



Rasa Pavilanis and Harold Scheer.



Suzanne Crawford and Paolo Renzi.

Schulich School of Music, the General Roméo Dallaire Foundation, Leave Out Violence (LOVE), and the German Language Schools of Quebec.

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Contractors: 5 hours needed to plow out driveways

cont'd. from p. 1

she added.

Despite the by-law restrictions, a city policy issued in December 2011 allows the private contractors to work up to 11 pm and after 5 am once 10 cm of snow has fallen. It was outlined again for this winter through a Public Security communiqué to contractors in late December though some were reported not to have received it until early January.

But even this toleration does not provide the five hours that some contractors said they needed to clean some 60 driveways each before the morning rush hour.

The city is “best served” by the concerns of the contractors, said lawyer Michael Besner, a resident of Oakland, who also represented some of the contractors. He questioned the “reasonableness” of the city’s method of communicating with contractors during the recent snowstorm.

He also noted that most driveways are cleared by equipment that does not use the noisy back-up beepers.

Balancing act

While Mayor Peter Trent agreed that better communication might be forged between the city and contractors, he explained that the city had to weigh two points of view: residents wanting early clearing and those who don’t want to be disturbed by “the beep-beep-beep” of larger loaders and heavy equipment used for larger parking lots typically in lower Westmount.

City director general Duncan Campbell said the matter was one of several he would discuss with city operations staff in a debriefing meeting on the snow removal operations after a record snowfall of 45.6 cm on December 27 (see January 15, p. 3).

Mitchell Steinberg of Belmont Ave. said that as a general rule, the contractors

should be allowed to work overnight. It was “very important” that driveways be done before kids are out on the streets.

Maureen Kiely, who lives on The Boulevard, cited the concerns of people with long driveways and noted that “when you live in Canada” the sounds of snow removal were a fact of life. She said she was pleased the city was “going to deal with” the contractors otherwise it could be “very inconvenient.”

Prefers working at night

“We prefer working in the night time when it’s as safe as possible,” explained contractor Mimmo Pierantozzi of Payagiste S.P.E.C., referring to a snow removal accident in Westmount that claimed the life of Jessica Holman-Price in December 2005. The existing times result in contractors working at the same time, he pointed out. “It’s an accident waiting to happen.”

Trent said that during the December 27 storm, there was no point of people being able to get out of their driveways if there was nowhere to go because streets had not yet been plowed. But Pierantozzi replied that the streets were opened by the city, yet the contractors had a curfew.

Other issues

John Fretz, a visibly annoyed resident of Lansdowne, however, said that so much snow had been dumped onto the sidewalk from offices at the northeast corner of his street and Sherbrooke that it blocked the sidewalk. Could the city not fine property owners in such a case?

Under the current by-law, replied Campbell, only the people who put the snow on the ground can be fined.

Councillor Martin later told the *Independent* that the beeping of trucks did not apply in upper Westmount and in some other parts of the city where typically smaller driveway equipment was used and



Nina Valery of Elm Ave. questions council on the snow removal issue January 14 while snow removal contractor Mimmo Pierantozzi waits his turn behind her. Seated at far left is another contractor along with lawyer Michael Besner, a resident of Oakland.

where several residents had told him any sound of snow removal overnight was “music to their ears.”

Long, narrow driveways, drifting snow, stone retaining walls and a need to start work early, or even overnight, were reasons they needed the professional services. As well, driveways should be finished by the start of rush-hour especially with school traffic along both The Boulevard and Cedar.

Contractors previously exempted

While the city brought in its overnight curfew in 2008 with By-law 1376 governing private contractors not working for the city, the previous noise By-law 1136 had exempted them from an overnight ban as long as they were “engaged in work or

services which may be described as being of an essential or emergency nature and which work is being conducted for the primary purpose of ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the city.”

The exemption was removed when some residents, particularly in lower sections of Westmount, complained about being awakened by the reversing of vehicles clearing large apartment and institutional lots.

“It is my hope that council will reinstate the exemption,” Martin said.

Until any changes are made, Public Security David Sedgwick said January 16 that officers would continue to enforce the existing by-law “as best we can” as well as the 10-cm policy.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Opening night of **Dawson Professional Theatre Program** third year student's "You can't take it with you," 8 pm. 2000 Atwater. Other performances: January 24 to 26, and 31, 8 pm. Tickets: \$12 adults; \$8 students and seniors; \$5 Dawson and group rate. Info: 514.931.8731, ext. 1239.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Demolition hearing for 15 Forden**, 5 pm at city hall. See story, p. 20.
- As part of the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, J.S.S. Armour tells the history of **The Royal Montreal Curling Club**, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Workshop on **retirement budgeting, income planning and expense management**, with Brian Smith, 1 to 4 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre. Free but space limited. Register: Beth Symansky 514.935.7344, ext. 206.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

"**Human Library**" at the Atwater Library with CBC Montreal, 11 am to 4 pm. Twelve people from Montreal volunteer to be a "book" and share stories through one-on-one conversation with members of the public. Info: cbchumanlibrary@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344, ext. 207.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Montreal Camera Club presents macro-photography presentation and workshop with Christian Autotte, 7:30 pm at the Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or www.montrealcameraclub.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

"Dickens for Today" presented by Ellie Clavier-Rothstein of the **Montreal Dickens Fellowship**, 7 pm to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for first-time visitors; \$5/meeting for subsequent visits; \$20 yearly membership; \$30 yearly family mem- *continued on p. 19*



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1439

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le règlement 1439 intitulé « **RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER LE RÈGLEMENT DE CONSTRUCTION 1391** » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors de la séance ordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 14 janvier 2013.

L'objet de ce règlement vise à abroger l'article 2.12 du règlement n° 1391 qui prévoit que toute construction à moins de 3 pi (0,9 m) de la ligne de propriété doit être de matériau non combustible, ce qui est plus restrictif que le Code de construction du Québec. Cette situation entraîne un manque de cohérence dans la conception et la construction des balcons et des terrasses des immeubles contenant un ou deux logements.

Le présent règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le règlement sur le site Web de la ville : www.westmount.org et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 23 janvier 2013.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1439

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law 1439 entitled "**BY-LAW TO AMEND BUILDING BY-LAW 1391**" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its regular meeting held at City Hall on January 14, 2013.

The object of this by-law is to repeal section 2.12 of By-law No. 1391, which provides for that all construction within the first three feet (0.9 m) of the property line must be of non-combustible material which is more restrictive than the Quebec Construction Code. That situation leads to a lack of coherence in the design and construction of balconies and decks on buildings containing one or two dwelling units.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any interested person may consult the said by-law on the City's Website: www.westmount.org and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this January 23, 2013.

Nancy Gagnon
Greffière adjointe / Assistant City Clerk



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1441

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le règlement 1441 intitulé « **RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 1318 SUR LES TARIFS** » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors de la séance ordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 14 janvier 2013.

L'objet de ce règlement vise à augmenter les tarifs mensuels imposés pour l'utilisation du stationnement municipal de la rue Tupper et celui de la rue Ste-Catherine.

Le présent règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le règlement sur le site Web de la ville: www.westmount.org et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 23 janvier 2013.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1441

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law 1441 entitled "**BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1318 CONCERNING TARIFFS**" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its regular meeting held at City Hall on January 14, 2013.

The object of this by-law is to increase the monthly tariffs imposed for the use of both the Tupper parking lot and the Ste. Catherine parking lot.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any interested person may consult the said by-law on the City's Website: www.westmount.org and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this January 23, 2013.

Nancy Gagnon
Greffière adjointe / Assistant City Clerk

cont'd. from p. 18

bership. Info: clavroth@sympatico.ca.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

“Hockey sticks, outdoor rinks and climate change,” with Lawrence Mysak, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Presented by the Healthy City Project. Free. Info: 514 989.5284.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

• ArtNow presents sculpturer **Oleg Dergachov** and painter **Randee Crudo**, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free.

Woman opens car door into passing taxi

A woman opened the driver's door of a Toyota Camry parked outside 4910 Sherbrooke at Prince Albert just as a taxi was passing January 12 about 3:45 pm, Public Security officials said. The side of the taxi was scraped from front to back and the Camry's door was so damaged the car had to be towed away. “Be very careful getting out of a car,” said assistant director Greg McBain. As well, he said, “On busy streets, cars should park as close to the curb as possible.”

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Ville de Westmount

City of Westmount



AVIS DE DEMANDE DE DÉMOLITION À TOUTES LES PERSONNES INTÉRESSÉES

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que la Ville de Westmount a reçu une demande du propriétaire du bâtiment situé au **3219 The Boulevard** pour un permis de démolition et un programme de remplacement dudit bâtiment.

Ce projet n'implique pas la démolition complète de la maison mais plutôt l'enlèvement d'une partie du toit d'un immeuble de catégorie 1*, ce qui, selon la définition du règlement, constitue une démolition et doit par conséquent être assujettie à la démarche régissant les démolitions à Westmount. Ce projet consiste en l'ajout d'une lucarne sur la façade sud.

Tous les documents pertinents concernant cette demande de permis de démolition, incluant les plans, peuvent être consultés au bureau de la directrice du Service de l'aménagement urbain de la Ville de Westmount situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount durant les jours ouvrables, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Toute personne qui veut s'opposer à la démolition doit, dans les dix (10) jours de la publication de l'avis public ou, à défaut, dans les dix (10) jours qui suivent l'affichage de l'avis sur l'immeuble concerné, faire connaître par écrit son opposition motivée au greffier de la ville.

De plus, chaque personne désirant exprimer son accord à la démolition proposée ou présenter toute autre proposition, doit également le faire par écrit, dans cette période de dix (10) jours, au greffier à l'adresse suivante :

Bureau du greffier
 Ville de Westmount
 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
 Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2

Toute personne qui aura déposé une opposition ou fait une proposition par écrit à l'intérieur de ce délai, sera avisée de la date, de l'heure et de l'endroit où se tiendra la séance publique du comité de démolition au cours de laquelle cette demande de permis de démolition et le « programme préliminaire » pour la réutilisation du sol à être dégagé seront étudiés. Ces personnes (ou leurs représentants dûment autorisés par écrit) pourront être entendues par le comité sur la démolition au cours de cette séance publique.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 22 janvier 2013.

Nancy Gagnon
 Greffière adjointe de la Ville

NOTICE OF DEMOLITION APPLICATION TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westmount has received an application from the owner of the building located at **3219 The Boulevard** for a demolition permit and for the replacement program of the said building.

This project does not involve the total demolition of the house but involves the removal of a part of the roof of a Category 1* building which as per the by-law definition constitutes a demolition and must therefore be submitted to Westmount's procedure regulating demolition. This project consists of the addition of a dormer on the south façade.

All relevant documents concerning this partial demolition application including plans may be consulted at the office of the Director of Urban Planning located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount on any working days, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Any person wishing to oppose the demolition must, within ten (10) days of publication of this public notice or failing that, within ten (10) days following the posting of the notice on the site of the immovable concerned, file his objections in writing with the City Clerk, giving the reasons for his objections.

Likewise, every person wishing to express support for the proposed demolition or make any other proposal in this regard must also do so in writing, within that period of ten (10) days, to the City Clerk at the following address:

City Clerk's Office
 City of Westmount
 4333 Sherbrooke Street West
 Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1E2

Any person who has filed objections and/or proposals in writing within the said delay shall be notified of the date, time and place of the public sitting of the Demolition Committee at which the said application for the demolition permit and the said “preliminary program” for the reutilization of the vacated land shall be considered. All such persons (or their representatives duly authorized in writing) may be heard by the Demolition Committee at the said public sitting.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this January 22, 2013

Nancy Gagnon
 Assistant City Clerk

Demo meeting on 15 Forden to take place Jan. 24

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition meeting will take place January 24 at 5 pm at city hall to hear a request by the owner of 15 Forden Ave., who wants to add a second storey to the current split-level house just north of Côte St. Antoine Rd.

In an unusual twist, a building permit had been approved by city council August 6 with an explanation that the work would not require a demolition permit since it involved less than the 50-percent removal limit (see August 21, p. 22).

Since then, however, things have changed, according to Urban Planning di-

rector Joanne Poirier. During the work, a wall was deemed in dangerous condition by the project engineer and taken down, resulting in a stop-work order December 21 and the need for a demolition hearing.

It doesn't change the nature of project, Poirier said. Although the demolition factor wipes out the acquired rights regarding property line setbacks, she explained, the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is recommending to the Demolition committee that the original setbacks be maintained to retain the "rhythm" of the streetscape.

A sign was to be installed outside to provide notice to neighbours but the re-

quirement to provide an official notice in the newspaper does not apply when an engineer rules a dangerous condition existed, Poirier said.



15 Forden Ave. as shown in August when the building permit was approved by council though not issued until November when the need for a demolition permit was not foreseen.



Ville de Westmount

City of Westmount



AVIS DE DEMANDE DE DÉMOLITION À TOUTES LES PERSONNES INTÉRESSÉES

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que la Ville de Westmount a reçu une demande du propriétaire du bâtiment situé au **91, Summit Crescent** pour un permis de démolition et un programme de remplacement dudit bâtiment.

Ce projet implique une démolition substantielle du bâtiment original. Comme les travaux touchent plus de 50 % de toutes les façades principales, ils doivent être soumis à l'examen du comité de démolition. Ce projet consiste en l'ajout d'un étage sur le bâtiment existant et par le remplacement du toit en pente par un toit plat.

Tous les documents pertinents concernant cette demande de permis de démolition partielle, incluant les plans, peuvent être consultés au bureau de la directrice du Service de l'aménagement urbain de la Ville de Westmount situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount durant les jours ouvrables, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Toute personne qui veut s'opposer à la démolition doit, dans les dix (10) jours de la publication de l'avis public ou, à défaut, dans les dix (10) jours qui suivent l'affichage de l'avis sur l'immeuble concerné, faire connaître par écrit son opposition motivée au greffier de la ville.

De plus, chaque personne désirant exprimer son accord à la démolition proposée ou présenter toute autre proposition, doit également le faire par écrit, dans cette période de dix (10) jours, au greffier de la ville à l'adresse suivante :

Bureau du greffier
Ville de Westmount
4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2

Toute personne qui aura déposé une opposition ou fait une proposition par écrit à l'intérieur de ce délai, sera avisée de la date, de l'heure et de l'endroit où se tiendra la séance publique du comité de démolition au cours de laquelle cette demande de permis de démolition et le « programme préliminaire » pour la réutilisation du sol à être dégagé seront étudiés. Ces personnes (ou leurs représentants dûment autorisés par écrit) pourront être entendues par le comité de démolition au cours de cette séance publique.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 22 janvier 2013.

Nancy Gagnon
Greffière adjointe de la ville

NOTICE OF DEMOLITION APPLICATION TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westmount has received an application from the owner of the building located at **91 Summit Crescent** for a demolition permit and for the replacement program of the said building.

This project involves substantial demolition of the original building. As the demolition work exceeds 50% of all main façades, the project must be submitted for consideration by the Demolition Committee. This project consists of an addition of a second storey to the existing building and a change from the existing sloped roof to a flat roof.

All relevant documents concerning this partial demolition application - including plans - may be consulted at the office of the Director of Urban Planning located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount on any working days, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Any person wishing to oppose the demolition must, within ten (10) days of publication of this public notice or failing that, within ten (10) days following the posting of the notice on the site of the immovable concerned, file his objections in writing with the City Clerk, giving the reasons for his objections.

Likewise, each person wishing to express support for the proposed demolition or make any other proposal in this regard must also do so in writing, within that period of ten (10) days, to the City Clerk at the following address:

City Clerk's Office
City of Westmount
4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1E2

Any person who has filed objections and/or proposals in writing within the said delay shall be notified of the date, time and place of the public sitting of the Demolition Committee at which the said application for the demolition permit and the said "preliminary program" for the reutilization of the vacated land will be considered. All such persons (or their representatives duly authorized in writing) may be heard by the Demolition Committee at the said public sitting.

GIVEN at Westmount, on January 22, 2013.

Nancy Gagnon
Assistant City Clerk

Westmount Art Scene

Dyer and Bucholtz Ross: A Montreal moment

BY HEATHER BLACK

Roxanne Dyer's subtle but dramatic oil paintings brings high fashion to The Gallery at Victoria Hall. While at the McClure Gallery, Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross' photographs of construction sites set the stage. What is common to both exhibits is a keen sense of design.

Roxanne Dyer at The Gallery at Victoria Hall

Dyer paints soft, diffused shapes – elegant gowns on mannequins, backstage hustle and bustle, and models in various states of readiness. Using large, loose brushstrokes, the emphasis is on movement. A neutral palette accentuates the sensuality of a dress design in the series “On the Mani.”

Dyer's figurative studies recall John Singer Sargent's “Lady Astor” in impressionistic treatment of fabric and elegant

Police, cont'd. from p. 14

General with a serious, but nonife-threatening, head injury. The victim, noted Pimentel, couldn't remember the accident.

Hit-and-runs on the rise

When the snow starts coming down, Pimentel said the number of hit-and-runs start going up. It is a crime, he said, to hit a parked car without notifying police or, at the very least, leaving a note with your contact coordinates.

Already, he said, the recent weather has made for many reports rolling in from across his station's district and, when asked, he said plow drivers usually come forward if they accidentally damage a car because they know they could face serious consequences and lose their jobs if caught.

pose. In “Cambio,” a blonde-haired woman bends to fasten a shoe. A fluid pose conveys the urgency of a dress rehearsal.

In the series “On Répète,” movement dominates. Figures caught mid-step within an angled doorframe evoke backstage excitement. Dramatic and urgent, a burnt sienna wash enlivens the predominately black and tan compositions.

Dyer's work is modern in her use of angled and asymmetric compositions. Yet beautiful gowns painted in fluid brush strokes evoke the elegance of Sargent's era. Entitled “vol,” the exhibit continues until Saturday, February 2 at 4626 Sherbrooke St.

Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross at the McClure Gallery

For this exhibit, Bucholtz Ross presents large format, hard-edged images of local construction sites. Entitled “An Unintended Aesthetic – The Impromptu Stage,” photographs of buildings hidden by or revealed through protective canvas advance the notion of set design. Photographed through stage-like curtains “Dorval Airport – Orange Drapes” warn of things to come.



Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross “Dorval Airport – Orange Drapes”

The use of high definition imagery also reveals “found” designs within construction sites. In “Little Tractors,” a rhythmic pattern of footings, viewed from above, is interrupted by two orange tractors. Parked on angles, the colourful tractors add a lively element to an otherwise neutral scene.

In “Marianopolis Under Starry Sky,” a refined building is juxtaposed with construction chaos. An interesting composition of graphic shapes, a round dome set against a blue sky predicts serenity. This image also suggests the creative process of excavating personal patterns and rebuilding form.

Bucholtz Ross captures momentary transitions and reveals unlikely patterns of beauty. The exhibit continues until Saturday, January 26 at 350 Victoria Ave.

Although working in different media, both artists capture and preserve a moment in time. One reflects the soft and malleable arts, the other, hard-edged construction. But both, with juxtaposing techniques and mediums, express a Montreal reality.

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer.



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Trent book short-listed for Writers' Trust \$25,000 award

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent has been named by the Writers' Trust of Canada as one of five finalists for this year's \$25,000 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing.

A press release announcing the short list January 15, states that a jury of five, chaired by politician and political scientist Ed Broadbent, selected Trent for his recently published book, his first, chronicling the forced municipal mergers: *The Merger Delusion: How Swallowing its Suburbs Made an Even Bigger Mess of Montreal*.

As a finalist he receives \$2,500 regardless. The winner is to be named March 6 in Ottawa at the Politics and Pen Gala at the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel.

While a first-time author has never won the award sponsored by Bell Media, Writers' Trust publicist Becky Toyne told the *Independent*, "more frequently it's not a first-time author who has been short-listed, and, as far as I know, it's the first time a sitting mayor has been a finalist."

Because it's a national award, finalists were selected for books "that would offer interest nationally," she said. They include

a broad variety of subjects that include the environment, mass transit, Canada's role in war zones, and an examination of problems facing Medicare.

Other finalists are Marcello Di Cintio (*Walls: Travels Along the Barricades*), Taras Grescoe (*Straphanger: Saving Our Cities and Ourselves from the Automobile*), Noah Richler (*What We Talk About When We Talk About War*) and Jeffrey Simpson (*Chronic Condition: Why Canada's Health-Care System Needs to be Dragged into the 21st Century*).

City hall short-circuits

Fire trucks converged on city hall January 10 when the Christmas lights outlining the building were seen sparking, Public Security officials said. The incident occurred shortly before 5 pm when the building was closed for the day. City director general Duncan Campbell was still in his office, however, located just at the location of the sparking. The cause was attributed to a short circuit.

McGuigan Pepin Realty joins Century 21 network

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

McGuigan Pepin Realty, an independent real estate brokerage in Westmount for the past 17 years, has become affiliated with Century 21, which is one of the world's largest real estate franchise companies.

"Century 21 had been looking for a while to be represented in Westmount, and we're very proud that they chose us," Joan McGuigan, McGuigan Pepin's president, said in an interview with the *Independent*.

According to McGuigan, the agency's clients will be getting added value because of Century 21's international referral network. She said it will facilitate transactions by property buyers who wish to relocate to Westmount, or Westmounters seeking to relocate somewhere else in the world.

"What clients will be getting is deep roots, the respect we've earned in the real estate market, and our well-established name," said Brian McGuigan, the firm's vice president and Joan's husband. The two have worked as real estate agents for 40 years.

Joan McGuigan said the terms of the franchise agreement with Century 21 will allow the company to continue to operate with virtually the same degree of independence as before. However, the Century 21 logo will be prominent on the sign outside the McGuigan's St. Catherine St.

storefront office, as well as on business cards and stationery.

"We will have more resources to improve an already client-focused agency, which has an exceptional track record for service and knowledge of the real estate market," said Tim McGuigan, Brian and Joan's son, who is one of the agents.

"We will remain a boutique operation," added Joan. While an expansion is in the works, she said the staff of four agents won't grow beyond 10.

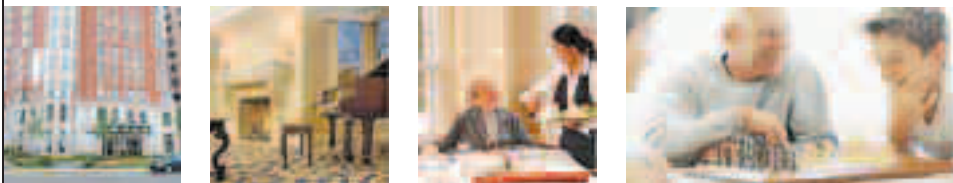


From left, Tim, Brian and Joan McGuigan of McGuigan Pepin Realty on January 16.

Car hits rock hidden in snow

A Mercedes was reported to have been damaged by a large landscaping rock hidden in snow and unseen by the driver January 9 near 367 Melville, Public Security officials said. The rock was picked up by Public Works.

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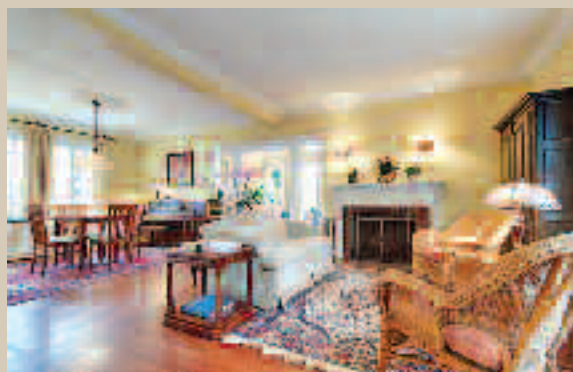
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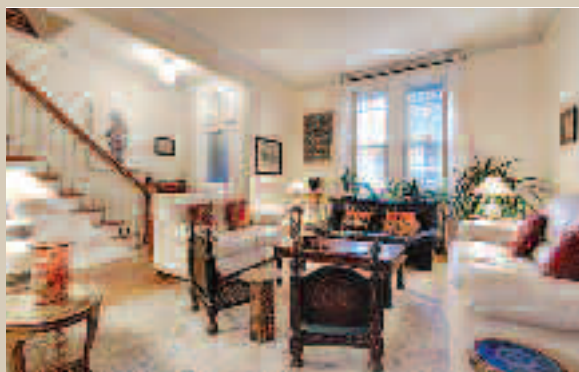
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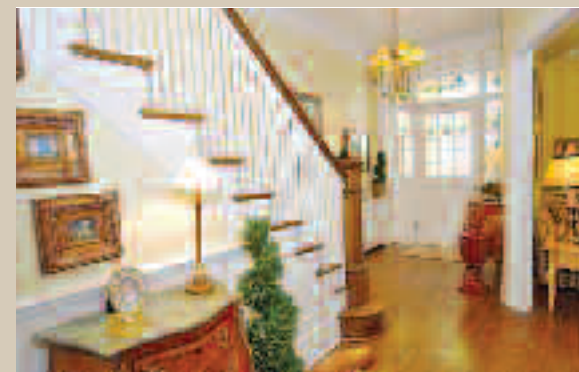


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basement. Good value in a fabulous location! **MLS 10329472**

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