

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 11 No. 10b

We are Westmount

October 10, 2017

## Election 2017: Acclaimed Oct. 6



Philip Cutler (incumbent)  
District 2



Jeff Shamie  
District 3

At the close of nominations October 6 at 4:30 pm, no opposing candidates to the above candidates had been received by the city's returning office, thereby electing them to the incoming city council. See p. 8 for other candidates.



Where  
once there  
was a tree,  
now a  
garden  
grows

Shana Rotstein, holding her four-year-old son Alexander, is seen here in the front yard of their previously shady Belmont Ave. home. More sunlight helped grow a garden, where a huge tree once stood. See p. 19.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Letters p. 6

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21

Underdog BY J. MCCORDICK p. 15

## November 5 municipal election

### Stosik runs in District 7

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Train noise, traffic congestion, bike path safety and rejuvenation of the commercial strip on St. Catherine St., are issues Johanna Stosik says are at the core of her election campaign for the council seat in District 7 where she lives.

Stosik, now a fashion and portrait photographer, began her career in Ottawa and Vancouver with the Solicitor General's department. She grew up on Abbott Ave., re-

turned to Westmount in 2000 and now lives on St. Catherine near Lewis.

"This is a perfect time for me to run as city councillor," she explains. "I had to step forward because there are too many things that are not making sense. It's time for a change."

Stosik, who is running against incumbent Cynthia Lulham, said that "due to the speed of trains, the historic homes are shaking." The noise reaches into St. Catherine *continued on p. 8*

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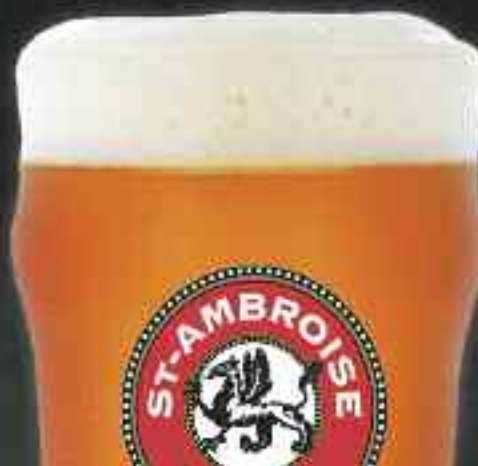
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## Muted swansong lacks fanfare

# Council wraps up business in restrained electoral air

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council wrapped up its 2013-2017 mandate October 2 highlighting several longstanding issues including a “gift” to the incoming council of labour peace.

The outgoing council ratified pension deficit agreements and a nine-year labour contract for city white-collar workers. It also appointed a new assistant director general, tabled long-awaited truck routes, approved 33 building permits and launched the second phase of the pay-by-plate parking system that will lead to the elimination of parking permit stickers.

The last meeting was characterized by a restrained electoral atmosphere, taking place in the presence of many candidates

– some at the council table, others in the audience – as well as more than 20 journalism students, who crowded around them after the meeting.

“We’re here to pass business,” Mayor Christina Smith cautioned on opening the meeting. “I don’t think it’s the place for campaigning.”

For a council swansong meeting it was unusually subdued and wound up without a post-meeting reception or a review of the council’s accomplishments, as has been known to have occurred in the past.

Smith explained how, contrary to some municipalities, the Westmount council was able to hold its last meeting during the electoral period because the regular Monday date fell outside the 30-day ban before

the vote November 5.

The two question periods were shorter than usual as several regular questioners in the overflowing audience remained silent.

At the end of the meeting, two retiring councillors were thanked for their contributions: Nicole Forbes after 12 years, and Victor Drury after eight. Both had been re-elected by acclamation four years ago.

Forbes, she said, as the commissioner of

Culture and Community Events, “engages people” and had assembled “an army of volunteers,” the backbone of the community.

Smith noted Drury’s “passion for public service” through the years, saying he had worked “so collaboratively with everybody and was such a champion of people working at city hall. As chair of the city’s Finance and Administration committee, he had been a great benefit to the city.”

## Drury, Forbes retire



Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Retiring councillors Victor Drury and Nicole Forbes at their last council meeting October 2. The portrait of Drury’s uncle, the late mayor Chipman Drury, is seen immediately behind him.

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*They Say ... The Real Estate market is quiet in the fall.*

**Fact:** The fall market represents 27% of all home sales. The spring market 28%, a mere 1% difference\*. Close to a third of all homes are sold during the months of September, October, and November. Buyers who don’t want to be buying their next home during the cold winter months are house hunting now, for spring occupancy. If you are thinking of selling, you need to know this.

*They Say ... You should renovate the kitchen, bathroom, change the windows, before going on the market.*

**Fact:** Buyers often prefer to renovate according to their own taste, and consult with their own contractor, with whom they have already established a relationship of trust.

*They Say ... You don’t need a new certificate of location until you go to the notary.*

**Fact:** A certificate of location represents the property in its present state with the correct corresponding lot number. If yours is older than ten years, or if you have made any changes to the exterior (balcony, fence, windows, etc), you most likely need a new one. Delivery can take up to four weeks.

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\*Based on the past five years, Greater Montreal Real Estate Board

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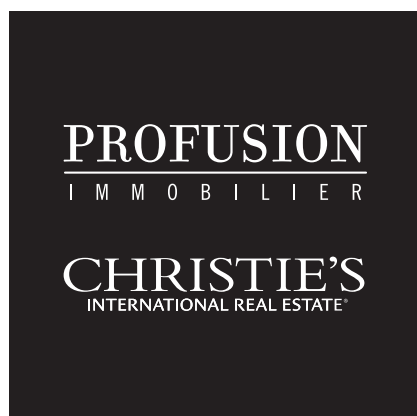
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## 74th banquet recognizes

# 9 join city's Quarter Century

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nine city employees were inducted into the city's Quarter Century Club at its annual banquet held October 4 at Victoria Hall.

As well, 14 others were honoured for marking 15, 20, 30 and 35 years of service. But it is only at the 25-year mark that they officially join the club that includes active and retired quarter-century employees.

In its 74th year, the annual banquet provides an opportunity for current workers and retirees to get together and recount shared experiences.

### 25-year honourees

This year's special quarter-century honourees were: Stéphane Bergeron and Salvatore Lipari (Hydro Westmount); Claude Danis, Dave Lapointe and Bruce Stacey (Sports and Recreation); Dawna Hobbs and Wendy Wayling (Library Services and Community Events); and Peter Jay and Sergio Velardo (Public Security).

### 35 years

Celebrating 35 years was Patricia Weigt of City Clerk's Office and Legal Services.

### 30 years

Marina Peter, of Public Works, and Joanne Poirier of Urban Planning, were recognized for 30 years. Poirier had retired in January, qualifying for her three decades of service.

### 20 years

James Pierre Guimond (Sports and Recreation); and Joseph Heisler and Dino Zagan (Public Works).

### 15 years

Mélanie Banninger, Gabriele Giobbi, Ena Gucciardi, Luciano Vincenzo and Jason Walters (Public Works); Sylvia Gadzinski (Urban Planning); Caroline Proctor (Library Services and Community Events) and Lisa Ward-Leduc (Human Resources).



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# Club, 14 others also honoured at annual event



The quarter-century inductees: flanked by city assistant director general Benoit Hurtubise (far left) and Mayor Christina Smith (far right), 25-year celebrants are from left: Dave Lapointe, Claude Danis, Salvatore Lipari, Bruce Stacey, Wendy Wayling and Dawna Hobbs.



Four “generations” of Public Works directors get together at the banquet: seated is Ed McCavour, who retired in 1993, followed by (standing, from left), Fred Caluori (retiring 2006) and Marianne Zalzal (retiring 2015) and current director Robert Talarico.



Sharing a laugh: former mayor Karin Marks, left, and Bruce St. Louis, former city director general.



Westmount Station 12 police commander Martine Dubuc, right, and Lieut. Jacques Meunier, were among more than 125 attending.

## Comin' Up

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

St Matthias' Church rummage sale, 10 am to 1 pm. 131 Côte St. Antoine, corner Churchill.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**

The Westmount Municipal Association is hosting a public meeting “**Meet the Candidates**” for council with moderator Bernard St. Laurent, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. “Meet the Candidates” for mayor is to be held Wednesday, October 25, same time

and place, with moderator Mike Finnerty.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Westmount Historical Association's lecture “**Congrégation de Notre-Dame: 360 Years Ago in Montreal**,” with professor Gary Evans, University of Ottawa, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cost: \$5. For other cost packages, visit [www.westmounthistorical.org](http://www.westmounthistorical.org).

# TUNE IN TO **YES<sup>11</sup>**

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## JUST OVER THE RAINBOW

On the very day the end of the world had (again) been predicted, September 23, I was leafing through an issue of the *Indie* and saw the stunning picture of a rainbow over Westmount, taken by Nigel Goddard. (see “Hidden talents,” September 19, p. 20.)

He notes in his description, “Both ends of the rainbow had their own gold.” Our gem of a library, which has its own feature in the same issue (compliments of the Westmount Historical Association) and beautiful Westmount Park, all of which, on a leisurely sunny late summer’s day, prompted me to wax poetic, as follows:

In a world sometimes sad and callow,  
There are yet great gifts  
That can uplift  
Just over the rainbow.

RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST.

## NOT SAFE ON ROSLYN AVE.

I moved to Roslyn between Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. last year with my husband and three young children. Living roughly 0.2 km from Roslyn school, I knew there would be high traffic volumes during drop-off and pick-up times but felt reassured knowing we were living in a 30-km school zone. Boy, were we wrong.



Photographed July 5. Photo courtesy of K. Oliver

Roslyn is a narrow two-way street that simply cannot accommodate the current two-way and high-traffic volumes. As my photo illustrates [see above], I cannot safely allow my children to stand on the sidewalk in front of our home because cars and trucks frequently drive up along the sidewalk for long stretches in order to pass each other and keep traffic flowing. How can this be tolerated at all and in a school zone, no less?

Why should I have to live in constant fear of my children or myself being struck by a car when standing on the sidewalk? Moreover, this stretch of Roslyn is used by countless numbers of young children on a daily basis walking to and from

school. Unfortunately, it is no better during the quiet periods of the evening and overnight either, as the total lack of both speed limit signage and any permanent traffic calming measure, such as a speed bump, results in cars using this flat stretch as a speedway between stop signs.

My husband and I have written many emails to the city of Westmount and have received polite answers but unfortunately no concrete action has been taken. A mobile speedometer was installed on the street this summer, but this forced drivers to slow down in order to pass it and failed to track data on the drivers speeding right by it in the opposite direction. I doubt any useful data was extracted.

With the construction on the Turcot, Westmount is seeing higher traffic volumes than ever, with commuters using our streets as a means to cross the city. There may have been a time when Roslyn was quiet enough to allow for two-way traffic, but this is not the case anymore.

It’s time for Westmount to wake up and take action to make this street safer for its residents and young children, who walk to school. How much analysis does it take to put in a speed bump or at the very least a 30-km/hr traffic sign in a school zone?

We are fed up and frustrated. I would

warmly invite any member of the city’s Traffic Advisory Committee to come have a coffee on my front steps any day of the week between 8 and 10 am to see with their own eyes, the dangerous condition of our street.

KARIN OLIVER, ROSLYN AVE.

## WESTMOUNT NEEDS MORE COMMUNITY GARDENS

I’m a proud new Westmount resident, and I chose this wonderful city for its magnificent parks, seed library and edible flowerbeds in the city. Westmount clearly has the environment at heart and works hard to achieve high standards of sustainability and promote a green lifestyle.

It’s contradictory to the city’s values that the city hasn’t created new community gardens. I’m disappointed that this matter hasn’t been on the municipal agenda. I joined the waiting list, and I’m 45th!

I think there’s plenty [of interested people] to get a new one going. I hope to see this situation addressed by the mayor.

KATY RAMOS-BORGES, METCALFE AVE.

continued on p. 7

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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

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# Trying his hand in sales



A worker with the city of Westmount “supports a local business August 4,” said Joe Fattal, the father of the boy selling brownies in front of his house in upper Westmount. They were sold out within one hour, he said.

Photo courtesy of Joe Fattal

## VOTES WITH CONSCIENCE

While I have a great deal of respect for Councillor Nicole Forbes and the years of service she gave to the city, I would take exception to referring to Councillor Patrick Martin as a renegade. I don't consider it an appropriate label for someone like Mr. Martin, who stands up for his principles. His views often differed from his council colleagues but offered an alternative perspective, which prompted much needed debate. Differing points of view are essential to a healthy democracy.

I served for eight years on council with Patrick Martin, as well as several years working collaboratively with him to take back our city. I always found him to be gracious and professional in his argumentation. He always voted with his conscience, which was also based on deep technical knowledge.

Indeed, as a candidate for mayor, Mr. Martin brings not only 12 years of experience on council, but years of expertise and experience in management, infrastructure design and construction that have benefited council and the community.

Far from being self-appointed opposition, I would argue Mr. Martin has a track record of being decisive, accessible, straightforward, and as an independent candidate, votes his conscience. Both his professional and council experience have demonstrated he understands the balance between collaboration and upholding his convictions.

KATHLEEN WARNER DUNCAN,  
LANSDOWNE AVE.

## A DEFAMING

Nicole Forbes's invective against Patrick Martin ("Renegade not the best mayoral option," October 3, p. 25) is a badly cooked-up Harper-style attack ad.

Martin, who advanced his progressive views in council, and who had the big picture that the rest of his colleagues were often lacking, is a formidable challenge to [former mayor] Peter Trent's protégé, Christina Smith. This smear campaign has zeroed in on the absurd idea that Martin might not have the right baton for leadership.

Peter Trent insisted there were no municipal political parties in Westmount; each councillor was free to express his or her own opinion in council. In reality, Peter Trent had a *de facto* party, which always voted in unison. Martin didn't always. He was marginalized by Trent.

At the inauguration of the Westmount recreation centre, Trent, in his thank-yous, glossed over Martin's name, but a few of us clapped loudly upon hearing it. He then received an ovation honouring his contribution to the project. He was the council's point man and liaison during the difficult

construction.

Early on, Martin repeatedly urged that infrastructure be undertaken. The deluge of May 29, 2012 cost the city \$200,000 in deductibles on residents' flood claims, and finally prompted the administration to undertake infrastructure. Martin was a leader in initiating infrastructure.

Martin's two well-reasoned letters in the *Examiner* swayed a majority in council to follow his lead in breaking with then-mayor Karin Marks over the artificial turf fiasco.

Forbes' letter is a disgraceful defamation of Martin's ability to lead and forge alliances with his colleagues. Several new faces will likely be on council; people with a professional outlook and who will forge a better urban planning. I'm sure Patrick Martin will be a great mayor.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## WITH HER OWN HATCHET

After reading the first few lines of Nicole Forbes letter (October 3, p. 25), I knew this was a hatchet job. I was not wrong.

Ms. Forbes first reproaches Mr. Martin for taking the time to reflect upon his decision. Although filing nomination papers in mid-September is acceptable for Elections Québec (deadline October 6), it is not acceptable for Ms. Forbes, who bizarrely defines it as "being a renegade."

Mr. Martin's consistent and professionally appropriate efforts to alert council to chronic infrastructure deficits and over-taxation (which fell on deaf ears) also attracts the ire of Ms. Forbes. The claim that "the mayor cannot dictate nor be a one-man show" will certainly come as a bombshell to a number of residents, who are under the impression that actually such is our *de facto* governance model.

Why did Ms. Forbes write this malicious letter? My guess is that the spectacle of the former mayor repeatedly slagging off not only Mr. Wajzman, but now Mr. Martin too, would have been unpalatable. She's there to help – with her very own hatchet.

Here's the thing. I swear I heard Mr.

Trent say he was resigning – leaving – no longer interested in the position. I was there. Yet here he is, week after week, like some ghost of mayoralties past, detailing Mr. Wajzman's supposed transgressions. Makes me think of that song by the Hot Licks – "How can I miss you if you won't go away." I would not be surprised to read a claim by Mr. Trent that *The Suburban* was in favour of ebola. It's hard to get elected with a CV like that.

Of course the real reason for this frenzy of unprincipled activity is that both targeted candidates have breached "The Westmount Code" – the tacit understanding that once an outgoing mayor has selected his/her successor there will be no more discussion. There are currently three candidates for mayor. Apparently that's two too many.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

## SO WHAT IF HE TOOK SOME TIME?

The letter signed by Councillor Nicole Forbes in the October 3 issue of the *Independent* (p. 25) was small. Who cares that Patrick Martin took a little time to reflect and decide upon his wanting to serve our community for another term, this time as mayor? I sensed that Ms. Forbes was surprised and not happy ..... about it.

*continued on p. 17*



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# How much is enough? \$100,000?

By Laureen Sweeney

Considering three people are vying for the role of mayor in Westmount's upcoming election, some residents have been questioning whether the city is paying its mayor enough for full-time involvement, given all the responsibilities it includes outside the city.

A look back at the mayor's remuneration declared for 2016, as required by law, showed then-mayor Peter Trent earned a total of some \$100,000 for his work.

This was in fact received not only from the city but also from the Montreal agglomeration, Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) and related committees.

When asked to confirm the figures provided, Trent said last week that many people do not realize the expense allowance received by a mayor does not require receipts and is not taxed, which adds a considerable amount that must be added to other earnings.

"The after-tax equivalent brings it to well over \$100,000," he said, citing his own case of full involvement in related outside mayoral responsibilities.

"It seems to me it was reasonable," he said, especially when compared with Montreal's Denis Coderre, who oversees a budget of some \$5 billion. His mayoral remuneration was reported at some \$165,000 plus a tax-free expense allowance of another \$16,000.

The following breakdown of Trent's remuneration for the year as reported in the *Independent* November 15, 2016 (p. 4) was:

- \$43,934 as an annual remuneration from the city (Westmount);
- \$16,216 as an expense allowance from the city;
- \$11,120 as an annual remuneration from the Montreal agglomeration council;
- \$10,110 as an annual remuneration from the MMC;
- \$556 per presence as an attendance allowance from the aggro Finance and Administration committee, where he was the vice chairman, up to an annual maximum of \$11,120. He no longer receives any remuneration from this commission, having resigned his position on October 27 (2016).

This totals \$92,500 before any "after-tax equivalent" adjustments.

Each city councillor earned \$14,645 from the city plus \$7,322.50 as an untaxed expense allowance, for which no receipts were required, for a total of some \$22,000 before factoring in the tax savings.

# New assistant city manager



Sandra Avakian was appointed October 2 as the city's new assistant director general for infrastructure effective November 13. She was hired from the city of Boucherville, where she has been director of engineering, to fill the vacancy left when Benoit Hurtubise was promoted to city director general. Avakian is an engineer "with a wealth of experience," said Councillor Victor Drury. She will now be given the role of working on the city's southeast planning vision among other responsibilities. This is the first time the city has had an assistant director general who is a woman.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

## New candidates

Two candidates entered the election race for councillor last week but announced to the *Independent* after an earlier-than-usual story deadline due to the Thanksgiving weekend.

They were Antonio D'Amico, a tax consultant and accountant living on Edgemoor Rd., running in District 1, and Gabriel Felcarek, a political science student at McGill, who lives on Roslyn, running in District 5.

## Who's running in the 2017 election?

|            |                                                                             |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor      | Patrick Martin<br>Christina Smith<br>Beryl Wajzman                          |
| District 1 | Antonio D'Amico<br>Anitra Bostock<br>Kirk Polymenakos                       |
| District 2 | Philip Cutler*                                                              |
| District 3 | Jeff Shamie*                                                                |
| District 4 | Rosalind Davis<br>Conrad Peart                                              |
| District 5 | Marina Brzeski<br>Elaine Carsley<br>Gabriel Felcarek<br>Christian Matossian |
| District 6 | George Fourniotis<br>Mary Gallery<br>Joanne Wallace                         |
| District 7 | Cynthia Lulham<br>Johanna Stosik                                            |
| District 8 | Kathleen Kez<br>Theodora Samiotis                                           |

\* Acclaimed October 6.

For information on public "meet-the-candidates" sessions, see Comin' Up, p. 5.

## Stosik: feminist, swimmer

cont'd. from p. 1

triplexes, apartments and condos.

"My district has young families, seniors and people working from home," Stosik adds, "and they need a reduction in noise."

She said she also plans to address traffic on St. Catherine which "is a mess" despite the installation of new lights to synchronize traffic flow.

She also believes the bike path on de Maisonneuve should be looked at from a safety perspective.

A user of the city's outdoor pool, Stosik says she wants to ensure seniors have what they need at a cost they can afford and that an indoor pool would be part of that as long as it is cost effective. "No one wants an increase in taxes."

She says she plans to meet as many electors as possible Saturday mornings at the recreation centre's café from 9 to 10:30 am.

Stosik attended St. Léon, Villa Maria and Champlain College in Lennoxville and graduated from Concordia in 1986. She later studied commercial photography at Dawson College and started her own business.

Describing herself as "a feminist" and



Johanna Stosik at council meeting October 2.

volunteer with Women's March Canada, she was part of the Canadian delegation that marched in Washington in January "as support to our US neighbours."

Stosik is the youngest of seven children of parents who came here after World War II from Holland and Poland. Her father ran a carpentry business (Frank Stosik Carpentry) from his home on Abbott, now operated by her brother in Pierrefonds.

"I have deep roots here and I love Westmount," she said.



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# City by-law to designate long-awaited truck routes

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The use of Westmount's residential streets for through truck traffic has long been an issue to residents, including Richard Lock who lives on Lansdowne between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve.

While he claimed police did not enforce the no-trucking sign at the corner of Sherbrooke, he has been told that this was because Lansdowne was not listed as a prohibited route by the city as required by the Quebec Highway Safety Code.

Lock was, in fact, in attendance at the council meeting October 2 when notice of motion was given of the city's intent to adopt a truck route by-law prohibiting their travel through Westmount territory with certain exceptions on specific main streets.

In tabling the by-law, Councillor Patrick Martin said the trucking provisions mean

police can ticket offenders, to Lock's stated delight.

Denis Biro of Burton, who also has been asking for specified truck routes, told the meeting that "this has been a big issue for some of us."



Richard Lock questions council on the new routes.

"It's going to have an impact on Victoria village," agreed Mayor Christina Smith, who has been representing District 5 for four years.

Nevertheless, trucks will still be permitted to pick up and deliver goods, provide a service, perform work, have a vehicle repaired and return a vehicle to its home base.

The draft by-law states truck and tool vehicles will be prohibited in Westmount – with the exception of Atwater, and between 7 am and 7 pm on:

- Claremont (Sherbrooke to St. Catherine);
- Clarke (Sherbrooke to St. Catherine);
- Victoria (Sherbrooke to St. Catherine and
- Dorchester, Glen Rd., Sherbrooke and St. Catherine.

## Cameras purchased for Public Security cars Parking permits to be replaced by new technology

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Parking stickers are expected to go the way of the do do bird next year following approval October 2 of two cameras for Public Security vehicles, the *Independent* learned last week.

In one of the council's last items of business, Councillor Philip Cutler moved the purchase of the cameras at a cost of \$109,000 for the equipment, which includes video recognition of licence plates.

Cutler, who has championed the automated pay-by-plate system, said he was pleased this was taking place in the last

days of the council.

The cameras will allow for the city to go "stickerless" for parking permits, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

Of particular benefit in residential areas, he said, the cameras will provide officers with the means to monitor reserved- and time-limited parking and even eliminate the need to chalk tires.

The contract for the equipment was awarded to ACCO Solutions Inc. No call for tender was required given the company was the sole provider, the resolution states.

## Truck catches fire, pulling too heavy a load

A pick-up truck caught fire September 28 in front of 12 Sunnyside, Public Security officials said. It generated a large amount of smoke that could be seen by the department's dispatcher monitoring a surveillance camera at the lookout. When

officers tracked down the source, they blocked the street while firefighters extinguished the blaze. The cause of the fire was attributed to engine overheating while the Chevrolet 2500 was pulling a trailer loaded with more than three tons of rocks.

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"You got my vote."  
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# Wajzman

## 2017 for Mayor pour Maire Westmount

Authorized by Morton Garellek, CPA, Official Agent for Beryl Wajzman.

# Pension deficits settled, labour agreements ratified

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At its last meeting October 2, city council ratified a longstanding and controversial issue of allocating pension fund deficits between the city and its employees. The actuarial deficit was reported at \$21.9 million.

To conform to provincial legislation in 2014 enabling municipalities to renegotiate defined benefit pension plans to improve their sustainability, the city last month reached agreements with white- and blue-collar employee labour groups, as well as

professionals and managers, for sharing the portion of the deficit as at December 31, 2013.

Under the renegotiated agreements, of the total \$21.9 million deficit, \$8.3 million (38 percent) is attributable to active members who will bear 45 percent of the amount, some \$3.7 million. The city's share of 55 percent is \$4.6 million.

The remaining \$13.6 million (62 percent) of the overall deficit is attributable to retirees, for which the city has complete responsibility. In total, this amounts to a city share of \$18 million, which the city has 15 years to pay off, Councillor Victor Drury, commissioner of Finance, explained.

"From where I sit right now, this will not have any impact on taxes," he added. "We have already set aside \$2 million."

The provincial legislation resulted in large measure from the fact that retirees are living longer, Drury said (see also story July 1, 2014, p. 1).

The council also ratified a nine-year (2014-2022) labour contract with its white-collar workers (see separate story).

## City white-collar agreement includes pay equity

A nine-year labour contract with the city's white collar workers was approved by city council October 2, providing pay increases in the area of 2 percent dating back to 2014.

It includes an annual increase of some 2 percent for seniority bonuses for 2014 to 2019, and integration of the city's pay equity program representing 1.6 percent of payroll.

The ratifying resolution states the contract calls for pay increases of 2 percent between 2014 and 2017, rising to 2.5 percent through 2019 and thereafter pegging to 2022 to the StatsCan Consumer Price Index for Montreal in a range between 2 and 2.75 percent.

It also authorized the payment of \$513,723 for all retroactive pay that may be owing as of January 1, 2014, an amount already provided for, according to councillor Victor Drury, commissioner of Finance.

# Geller champions 'sibling park' idea at Children's, launched in July

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A "sibling park" set up at the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) in mid-July to provide respite for families with babies in treatment at the neonatal intensive care unit was made possible with the support of two Westmount residents.

In 2015, Alana Geller and Jodie Zimmerman-Frenkiel co-founded a fundraising event for the benefit of children at the MCH, which they called Stroll for Kids. According to Geller, it has raised \$500,000 in just three years.

The idea for the park came to Geller after she gave birth prematurely to twins, who spent six weeks in the neonatal unit at the Children's.

Last year, when one of the twins, who has cerebral palsy, underwent surgery and therapy at the children's hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, the other twin was looked after at a special childcare facility that had

been set up at the hospital.

"When I got back, I started telling Jodie about the amazing playroom and whether it was something we could make happen at the Montreal Children's," Geller told the *Independent*.

The Just for Kids Foundation, which raises funds for the Children's, became involved and soon hospital staff and administrators agreed along with the foundation that there was a longstanding need for such a facility. The only thing that was missing was the funding.

"Stroll for Kids will likely raise around \$200,000 this year," said Geller, adding that a good portion will be going to pay for the staff who supervise the "sibling park."

"We started the program with that particular population in mind – siblings of children in the NNICU," said Zimmerman-Frenkiel. "The more money we raise, the more we can staff and the more siblings we can serve in the community."

## Injured duck rescued

An injured duck was found in the grass under a bush near the east entrance to Westmount Public Library October 2, Public Security officials said. Dragging its left wing, the duck managed to make its way into the pond, where an officer was able to capture it and take it to the SPCA.

## Fallen branch at 12 am

A branch measuring 12-15 feet long fell across the road at The Boulevard and Clarke September 27, according to Public Security officials. It was discovered at 12:44 am. It was cleared to the side and cordoned off until it could be removed.



Westmounters Jodie Zimmerman-Frenkiel, left, and Alana Geller are seen here September 15 in the "sibling park" at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

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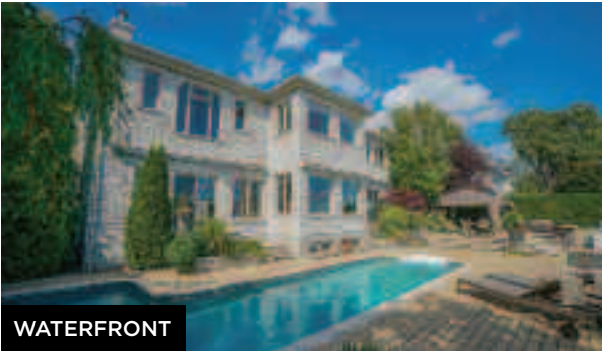
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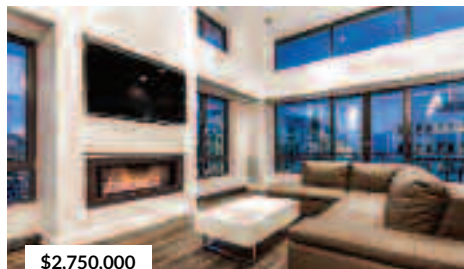
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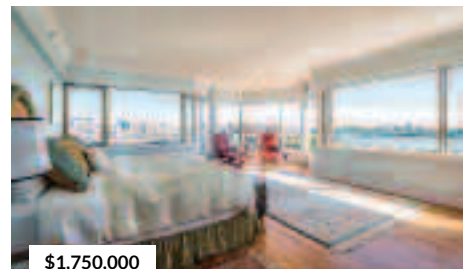
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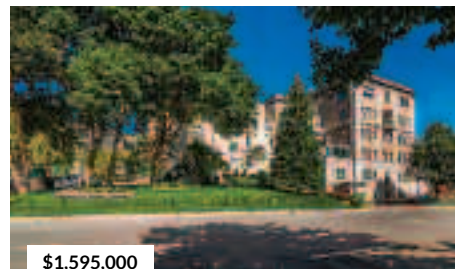
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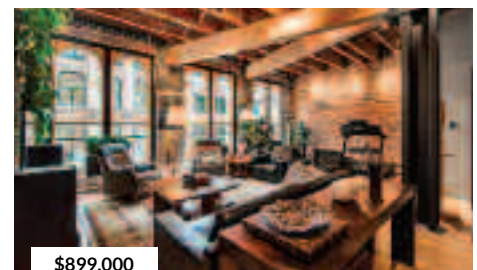
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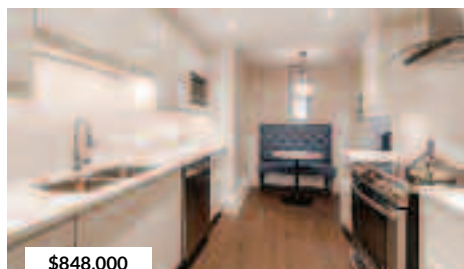
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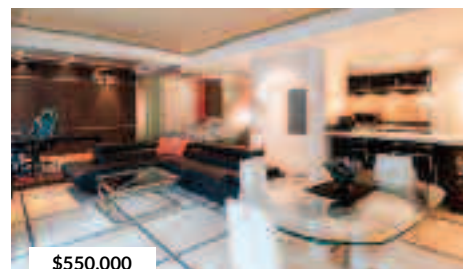
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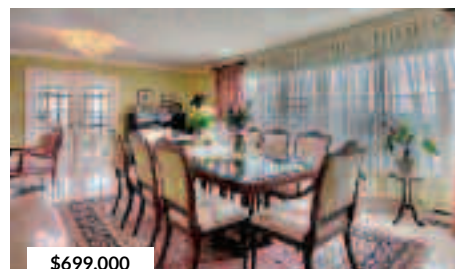
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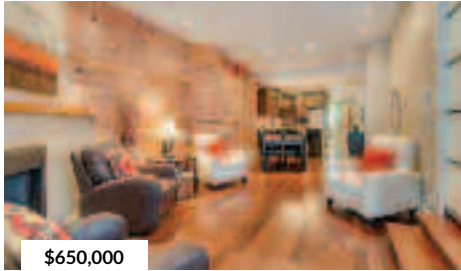
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# Can we Peke your interest?



Proud new Canadians, Pekinese dogs Piki (left in photo) and Benji got off to a rough start in Iran, where they were abused in a puppy mill. Their plight came to the attention of a kind woman who was traveling to Montreal to visit family. She scooped up the two scared and fragile bundles, gave them much-needed medical care and brought them to safety. Having pledged allegiance to the Queen, both dogs are now fit as fiddles and eager to show off their good citizenship badges.

Benji is around three years old and sees it as his mission to live up to his breed's other name, lion dog. Outgoing and sociable, he staunchly protects his beloved Piki against other dogs, to whom he barks orders to back off.

Piki is around four years old and probably had an even harder life than Benji, producing litter after litter. Though quieter

than Benji and a bit shy at times, she is a friendly little creature with an endearing underbite.

An enthusiastic advocate of these ancient Chinese palace dogs, the British writer Rumer Godden described their long and noble history in *The Butterfly Lions*. The Pekinese (or Pekingese) were said to combine the beauty and delicacy of the butterfly with the pride and nobility of the lion. Since its introduction to the west in the 19th century, countless aficionados have succumbed to the charm and intelligence of this breed. True, the dogs' silky coats require regular brushing, but the sight of a smartly groomed Peke trotting along with its perkily plumed tail and broad grin will delight even the most confirmed curmudgeon.

With two such darlings on the end

of a leash, you will be the envy of the neighbourhood.

Piki and Benji are very attached to each other and must be adopted together, which is what landed them in this column. Not everyone wants two for one. They would do better in a house than an apartment, and can live with children aged 10 and up. Please email Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) or page 514. 203.9180.



## 'Rescue' dog rescued again

A call from Public Works about a loose dog in the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) October 3 turned out to reveal a tale about one very lucky dog.

Public Security officials said officers answered the call at 7:40 am and attempted to catch the dog, which appeared nervous and kept running around. As residents with their dogs kept arriving at the dog run area and helped corral the skittish dog, it was finally caught and calmed down once officers attached a leash to the collar. The dog was taken to the SPCA at 10:30 am.

When they arrived, the person at the counter produced an email just received notifying the shelter about a dog missing in St. Henri. It matched the description as a medium size, light brown corgi mix.

The owner was reported to be very distraught over the dog's disappearance, stating she had rescued the dog from a Korean meat farm and had it flown here. The dog was "extremely" shy.

"Now we understand why," said Public Security director Greg McBain in relating the story.

– LS

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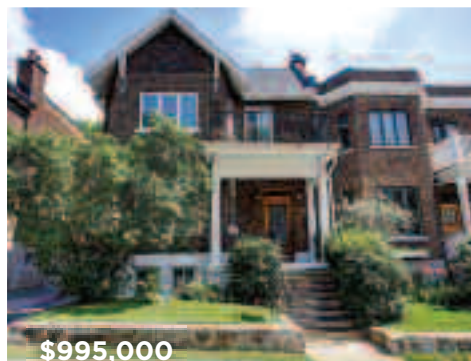
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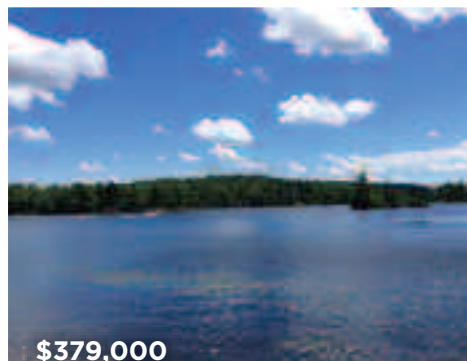


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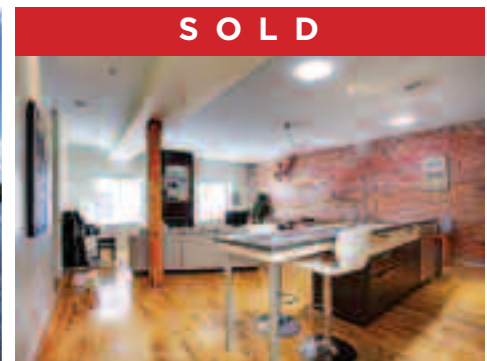
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# Hydro gets new assistant director



Ali Sedighian was named by council October 2 to become assistant director of Hydro Westmount, effective immediately. An engineer, he comes from the private sector to fill the void left by the recent appointment of Salah Bouziane to head the city's electrical utility.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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## Letters cont'd. from p. 7

I like this kind of surprise – the surprise of our being permitted to vote for a proven public figure of quality, who has great experience professionally at gathering people together and getting things done within a budget. And who observed that having a balanced budget, but with a significant infrastructure deficit, as is the case in Westmount, is nothing to be too proud of.

I applaud Mr. Martin for his occasional so-called “renegade” nature – and the clarity and better results that come from it – and thank him for his committed service to Westmount so far.

WILLEM WESTENBERG, STAYNER ST.

## VOTE FOR THE STATUS QUO – OR NOT

It is unfortunate and disappointing that Councillor Nicole Forbes chose a US-political-style attack on fellow councillor Patrick Martin (see her letters, October 3, p. 25), one that attempted to impugn his character while overlooking his policy proposals.

Westmount residents will have clear choices this November. But first, let's briefly review the last four years. Some positives: debt paid down, completed Westmount recreation centre on budget (Martin was lead councillor), a new process for non-conforming developments (SCAOPI), a new street parking meter system, additional permit parking in Victoria village, updated children's park equipment.

And then the negatives: crumbling roads and a huge infrastructure deficit, the closing of the long neglected conservatory, the Westmount Park dog run debacle, a Prince Albert square design that rejected all resident input including that of two Westmount architects, a southeast redevelopment project now totally off the rails, the important 500 Claremont development project still unresolved by council after almost a year of planning, an expensive Summit Circle rebuild that eliminated accessibility to people with disabilities as well

as being a most unpleasant experience for everyone else, a long promised update to renovation guidelines still nowhere to be seen, poor quality of Prince Albert Ave. reconstruction, still grindingly slow permit department, continuing deterioration of the Greene and Vic village commercial areas, lack of transparency in many council and city decisions necessitating resident requests under Access to Information.

Some Westmount residents may judge this to be satisfactory and, if they do, there is a slate of candidates that will ensure the *status quo*. For those desiring responsible change, there are many other choices among the diverse group of excellent candidates. This November 5 election provides a great opportunity for all of us to reflect on the last four years and make this critical choice for the future.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

## IT'S A RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE

One of the major reasons that Donald Trump is now president of the United States is that voter turnout was at its lowest point in close to 20 years. Does Trump truly represent the people's choice? I guess we will never know. Citizens simply did not come out and let their voices be heard.

Sadly, our city of Westmount also has a very poor track record of voter turnout. Let's change this, now.

It is both our right and our privilege as citizens to choose Westmount's mayor and city council. Please learn about the candidates. Talk with your friends and neighbours. Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 5 and come out and vote. Your voice truly matters – make sure it is heard.

LIANA THIBODEAU, GROSVENOR AVE.

## ATTACK LETTERS FROM THE 'TRENT GANG'

The Trent gang (“family compact” included) features two nasty negative attack letters on mayoralty candidates who dare to oppose their mayoralty choice: one that maligns Beryl Wajzman and signed by [former mayor] Peter Trent (“Consistency a

good attribute in a mayor,” p. 25) and the other assails Councillor Patrick Martin, signed by his surrogate, Councillor Nicole Forbes (“Renegade not the best mayoral option,” October 3, p. 25.)

Mr. Trent did our community a disservice by resigning months ago instead of pursuing a proper procedure of allowing his term to normally end: all this to give a heads-up to his choice for mayor. This smacks of an odour of ward-heeling political cronyism.

There was no care nor any consideration that other competent, or more competent, citizens could present themselves as candidates for mayor.

Ms. Forbes does not approve of Patrick Martin being a renegade, not a team player. A strength of Patrick Martin (raised in Westmount from early childhood) is that he is not a yes man, but a qualified, independent thinker.

STAN GROSSMAN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## SPEAKS UP EVEN WHEN EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES

While election season is upon us, and I expect the *Independent's* letters to the editor to be on the rise, I was taken aback by the tone of the letter from Councillor Nicole Forbes characterizing Councillor Patrick Martin as a renegade who would dictate to council and act as a one-man show.

Councillor Martin has overseen a doubling of the budget for infrastructure over the last two years. I doubt that he could have achieved this without making a solid case and gaining the support from his fellow councillors.

What is Ms. Forbes afraid of? Could it be that Councillor Martin was often the pragmatic dissenting voice on council as compared with majority of the remaining councillors who appear to simply go along with then mayor Trent's projects, such as the narrowing of Dorchester? Support for this project continued despite more and more studies (all paid for at the taxpayers' expense) that indicated that changes to

Dorchester were a bad idea or whose recommendations were rejected by council because they did not match the “vision.”

I believe that the number of candidates who have entered the race for mayor and council this year is a reflection of the general dissatisfaction with the lack of debate and transparency that has become the norm at council the past few years.

All I know is that Councillor Martin went public (would Ms. Forbes consider that renegade?) a couple of years ago, pointing out the poor state of some of Westmount's roads and asking for input on the worst cases. As a ..... result, what ended up as *continued on p. 19*

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**ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE MUNICIPALE  
MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION  
LE 5 NOVEMBRE 2017 - NOVEMBER 5, 2017**



**AVIS PUBLIC  
RÉVISION DE LA LISTE ÉLECTORALE MUNICIPALE**

1. Je, Martin St-Jean, en ma qualité de président d'élection, donne avis que la liste électorale municipale a été déposée au bureau de la municipalité le 6 octobre 2017.

**ELLE FERA MAINTENANT L'OBJET D'UNE RÉVISION**

2. Les conditions requises pour être électeur et avoir le droit d'être inscrit sur la liste électorale de la Ville sont les suivantes :
  - ➔ être majeur le 5 novembre 2017;
  - ➔ être de citoyenneté canadienne le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2017;
  - ➔ ne pas être en curatelle le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2017;
  - ➔ ne pas avoir été déclaré coupable, en date du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2017 d'une infraction constituant une manœuvre électorale frauduleuse au cours des cinq dernières années;

**ET ÊTRE, LE 1<sup>er</sup> SEPTEMBRE 2017 :**

- ➔ soit **domicilié** sur le territoire de la Ville et, depuis au moins 6 mois, au Québec;
- ➔ soit **propriétaire unique d'un immeuble** situé sur le territoire de la Ville depuis au moins 12 mois, à la condition de ne pas avoir déjà le droit d'être inscrit sur la liste électorale à titre de personne domiciliée et d'avoir transmis au soussigné une demande écrite et signée pour être inscrit à la liste électorale;
- ➔ soit **occupant unique d'un établissement d'entreprise** situé sur le territoire de la Ville depuis au moins 12 mois, à la condition de ne pas avoir déjà le droit d'être inscrit sur la liste électorale à titre de personne domiciliée ou de propriétaire unique d'un immeuble et d'avoir transmis au soussigné une demande écrite et signée pour être inscrit à la liste électorale;

Note : Le propriétaire unique de plusieurs immeubles ou l'occupant unique de plusieurs établissements d'entreprise sur le territoire de la Ville doit s'inscrire à l'adresse de l'immeuble ou de l'établissement d'entreprise ayant la plus grande valeur foncière ou locative.

- ➔ soit **copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble** situé sur le territoire de la Ville depuis au moins 12 mois, à la condition de ne pas avoir déjà le droit d'être inscrit sur la liste électorale à titre de personne domiciliée, de propriétaire unique d'un immeuble ou d'occupant unique d'un établissement d'entreprise et d'avoir été désigné au moyen d'une procuration signée par la majorité des copropriétaires ayant la qualité d'électeur en date du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2017 qui a été transmise au soussigné;
- ➔ soit **cooccupant d'un établissement d'entreprise** situé sur le territoire de la Ville depuis au moins 12 mois, à la condition de ne pas avoir déjà le droit d'être inscrit sur la liste électorale à titre de personne domiciliée, de propriétaire unique d'un immeuble, d'occupant unique d'un établissement d'entreprise ou de copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble et d'avoir été désigné au moyen d'une procuration signée par la majorité des cooccupants ayant la qualité d'électeur en date du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2017 qui a été transmise au soussigné;

3. Dans le cas d'une demande d'inscription concernant une personne domiciliée sur le territoire de la Ville, le demandeur doit indiquer l'adresse précédente du domicile de la personne dont l'inscription est demandée et doit présenter deux (2) documents dont l'un mentionne le nom et la date de naissance et l'autre, le nom et l'adresse du domicile de la personne dont l'inscription est demandée.

4. La liste électorale peut être consultée et les demandes d'inscription (électeurs domiciliés uniquement), de radiation ou de correction doivent être présentées devant la commission de révision à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest aux dates et heures suivantes :

- ➔ **mardi 17 octobre 2017 de 14 h 30 à 22 h; et**
- ➔ **mercredi 18 octobre 2017 de 10 h 00 à 19 h 00.**

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 6 octobre 2017.

Le président d'élection, Martin ST-JEAN, avocat

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
REVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL LIST OF ELECTORS**

1. I, Martin St-Jean, in my capacity as Returning Officer give notice that the municipal list of electors was deposited at the office of the municipality on October 6, 2017;

**IT WILL NOW BE REVISED**

2. That the requirements to be an elector and to be entitled to be entered on the list of electors of the City are as follows:
  - ➔ be at least 18 years of age on November 5, 2017;
  - ➔ be a Canadian citizen on September 1, 2017;
  - ➔ not be under curatorship on September 1, 2017;
  - ➔ not have been convicted, on September 1, 2017, of an offence that is a corrupt electoral practice in the previous five years.

**AND, ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2017:**

- ➔ be **domiciled** in the territory of the City and, for at least six months, in the province of Quebec; or
- ➔ be the **sole owner of an immovable** situated in the territory of the City for at least 12 months, provided he or she is not already entitled to be entered on the list of electors in his or her capacity as a domiciled person, and that a written and signed application for entry on the list of electors be submitted to the undersigned; or
- ➔ be the **sole occupant of a business establishment** situated in the territory of the City for at least 12 months, provided he or she is not already entitled to be entered on the list of electors in his or her capacity as a domiciled person or as the sole owner of an immovable, and that a written and signed application for entry on the list of electors be submitted to the undersigned; or

Note: The sole owner of several immovables or the sole occupant of several business establishments must register at the address of the immovable or the business establishment having the greatest property or rental value.

- ➔ be an **undivided co-owner of an immovable** situated in the territory of the City for at least 12 months, provided he or she is not already entitled to be entered on the list of electors in his or her capacity as a domiciled person, as the sole owner of an immovable or as the sole occupant of a business establishment, and that he or she is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by the majority of co-owners who are electors of the City on September 1, 2017, and that the power of attorney be sent to the undersigned; or
- ➔ be a **co-occupant of a business establishment** in the territory of the City for at least 12 months, provided he or she is not already entitled to be entered on the list of electors in his or her capacity as a domiciled person, as the sole owner of an immovable, as the sole occupant of a business establishment or as an undivided co-owner of an immovable, and that he or she is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by the majority of the co-occupants who are electors of the City on September 1, 2017, and that the power of attorney be sent to the undersigned.

3. That, in the case of an application for entry concerning a person domiciled in the territory of the City, the applicant must indicate the former address of the domicile of the person whose entry is requested and must present two (2) pieces of identification, one must bear the name and date of birth, and the other the name and address of the domicile of the person whose entry is requested;

4. That the list of electors may be consulted and applications for entry (domiciled electors only), striking off or correction must be submitted to the board of revisors at **Westmount City Hall** located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West on the following dates:

- ➔ **Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and**
- ➔ **Wednesday, October 18, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

GIVEN in Westmount, on October 6, 2017.

Martin ST-JEAN, attorney, Returning Officer

.....  
**Letters cont'd. from p. 17**

the top five stretches of road that were reported by citizens were resurfaced shortly thereafter.

Patrick Martin is not a renegade. Rather, he has the courage to speak up when the emperor has no clothes.

JIM RICHARDS, DORCHESTER BLVD.

## IN FAVOUR OF TRANSPARENCY

I was glad to see that Councillor Patrick Martin has decided to run for election as mayor of Westmount. Mr. Martin has the experience, expertise and energy to manage and maintain the city's infrastructure, and is open to new ideas about how that might be done. He will carry forward Westmount's traditions of fiscal prudence, and work to bring in projects on time and on budget. He has proven himself capable of dealing with large projects and organizations in the past, and is qualified to tackle them in the future. He's also willing to review the city's permitting process, which many citizens find arduous and restrictive, and he has the personal knowledge of, and respect for Westmount's history and built heritage necessary to guide such a review.

Mr. Martin is in favour of more openness in the city's governance (what is commonly called transparency) and his own record supports that view. I believe he will deal fairly and openly with citizens and staff, and keep things going forward for the benefit of both.

GEORGE BOWSER, COLUMBIA AVE.  
 AND PAUL BILLETTE, REDFERN AVE.

## CANDIDATES: THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

With focus on the grandiose (if indoor-pool-lacking) Westmount recreation centre, the rest of Westmount Park seems to have lost out. In the coming municipal election, I would like to see candidates for mayor or councillor who agree to address the following:

- Restore the dog run to its location in the southwest of the park – a space now almost unused – and bring back a more peaceful lagoon area.
- Add a Nunavut plaque to the provincial and territorial monument in the northeast [part of the park]. There is an available position, and it is now more than 18 years since the third territory was established.
- Upgrade the “splash bash” in the same area to make it even more fun (as with several in Montreal).
- Get the floral clock working.
- Spruce up the footpaths, especially those around the lagoon.
- And early restoration of the greenhouses is a must even if their non-avail-

ability has allowed the gardeners to develop the lovely flower bed east of the library and the straw mutt beside the presently situated dog run (he/she is always quiet and is welcome to stay!)

CHRIS LYLE, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## HERE'S WHAT 'MEETING' MEANS IN ONTARIO

Regarding the letter “Insist on definition of ‘private’ city council meeting this election,” (October 3, p. 24), Westmounters might want to know that there is now a new definition of a “meeting” in Ontario's Municipal Act. Here it is:

“Meeting” means any regular, special or other meeting of a council, of a local board or of a committee of either of them, where,

(a) a quorum of members is present, and (b) members discuss or otherwise deal with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee.”

ANDREW SANCTON, LONDON, ONTARIO

## STILL MORE TO DO

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) would like to thank the outgoing council for its hard work and dedication to all residents of Westmount over the past four years. Whilst there is still much work to do, we certainly acknowledge and recognize that the quality of life in our community continues to improve, despite the challenges of external influences, such as the Turcot project etc.

One of the advantages of our current municipal system is that all councillors have an equally important voice in the decisions taken. The lack of a party system allows a much greater diversity of thought and opinion to shape our city's policies.

We commend all the candidates who have stepped up to the plate and announced their candidacy for election. We also look forward to the interesting debates that will shape policies moving forward. As always, the WMA is focused on good governance, transparency, responsive processes and evidence-based decision-making.

Rest assured, we will continue with our mandate into our 110th year as we work together with council, the administration and all Westmounters to help move our community forwards.

PAUL MARRIOTT, PRESIDENT,  
 WESTMOUNT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

## UNDERMINES WESTMOUNT'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITION

Condemnatory and dismissive assessments of candidates in the upcoming Westmount elections undermine the city's democratic tradition. Moreover, those made by a present or former councillor or

mayor would seem to reflect a cronyism in the present council, a quality incoming candidates running for office may want to get rid of.

Retiring councillor Nicole Forbes's letter (October 3, p. 25) is a case in point and, in addition, particularly disconcerting.

Not only is Councillor Forbes harsh assessment of fellow councillor and mayoralty candidate Patrick Martin unworthy of her, the text also contradicts the spirit of her claim the previous week in the *Independent* in the councillor's column: “One of the advantages of living in a smaller community is having a voice, a say in what goes on” (September 26, p.4).

Let's hope the many candidates running for office, both as councillor and mayor, share this vision of the democratic process. We can soon hear what they have to say for themselves on the Meet the Candidate evenings of October 18 and 25.

ANNE DOUGLAS, ACADEMY RD.

## MAKES HIM GOOD MAYORAL CANDIDATE

[Regarding her letter in the October 3 issue, p. 25,] Councillor Nicole Forbes describes Patrick Martin as a man with experience who always stands up for his principles and who will never compromise on what is best for the community. Surely, this makes him an ideal candidate to be

mayor of Westmount.

NORMAN NADLER, SUNNYSIDE AVE.

## UNNATURAL FLOW

It seems once again an after-the-fact response, this time from Councillor Patrick Martin, to see if something can be done about the narrow sidewalks from Claremont to Victoria. (See “Council asked why ‘new’ Westmount Ave. sidewalks narrower than to the east,” September 19, p. 4.) Surely these issues have been brought up with the professionals and planning processes. Frankly, I think the number of planted inserts along Westmount Ave. is somewhat excessive, particularly in front of Roslyn school, where I have witnessed romping kids and adults thinning into single file to circumvent these plantings – an unnatural flow at best.

Furthermore, on the corner of Lansdowne and Westmount Ave. I have had to reverse my car at the stop sign, at least twice, in order for the bus to swing around the corner without hitting me or any other stopped vehicles. Who does these calculations and planning?

Also, I share Pamela Stewart's concern about the large stones on the newly renovated Summit path, from which I sadly stay away from these days.

HELAINE KLIGER, ROSLYN AVE.

# Belmont family grows their own veggies in front yard

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While they miss the big old tree that used to dominate their front yard, a family on Belmont Ave. discovered this past summer that the sunlight streaming onto their property without the shade helped create the perfect growing environment for a vegetable garden.

Last fall, a wind storm caused such serious damage to the old tree that the city of Westmount deemed the tree unsafe, according to Shana Rotstein, and cut it down last spring.

Although a sapling has since been planted by the city near the spot in the front yard where the old tree once stood, the Rotstein family – observing the sunlight coming into their front lawn area – seized the opportunity and planted two 12-by-4-foot organic gardens.

“We are growing vegetables – tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, onion, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, Swiss chard, let-

tuce and herbs, child, mint, dill, parsley, basil, rosemary and lemongrass,” Rotstein said.

Although the family had previously made an attempt to cultivate vegetables on a much smaller scale in containers on their outside deck, the results were poor, she said.

In comparison, she pointed out, this year's harvest from the garden included lettuce with leaves that grew so high they were taller than her four-year-old son Alex.

Apart from the surge in sunlight, Rotstein attributes some of their gardening success to the home-brewed fertilizer the family used. “Every time we made a coffee, we collected the coffee grounds and spread them on the earth,” she said.

“And every time we ate eggs, we would take the egg shells and crush them with a roller until they were ground very fine and mix them with the coffee grounds to use as fertilizer.”

*See photo, p. 1.*

# BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY THE CITY IN SEPTEMBER

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting September 5.

**124 Aberdeen:** to build an extension, do exterior renovations and minor landscaping and to replace windows and doors provided the solar panels are located on the new roof and positioned to leave room around the required roof flashing and top of the gable;

**390 Prince Albert:** to replace a door and make modifications at the rear basement entrance;

**576 Grosvenor:** to build a new rear basement entrance and rebuild the rear deck;

**535 Mount Pleasant:** to enlarge a rear balcony and replace a window with a patio door provided the door is composed of three panels and that some revisions are submitted;

**Westmount Ave.,** vacant lot: landscaping to include a new driveway, retaining walls, terraces and new trees provided the planting bed is widened to align with the retaining wall and that the proposed hedges are reduced to a maximum of 6-foot 6-inches;

**354 Kitchener:** to rebuild the front retaining walls;

**562 Claremont:** to replace two windows;

**3252 The Boulevard:** to replace some windows;

**622 Belmont:** to replace a patio door provided it has three panels;

**14 Forden Ave.:** to replace windows;

**12 Forden Ave.:** to replace windows provided two designated storm windows have 50/50 proportions;

**527 Lansdowne:** to replace a fence;

**4311 Montrose:** to build an addition in the front of the building, install two new windows and modify the front stairs provided the brick coursing is raised to align with the existing building;

**4873 Sherbrooke:** at a Category I building, to replace a door and window at the front;

**521 Lansdowne:** at a Category I house, landscaping at the rear;

**42 York:** to replace a fence;

**22 Winchester:** to replace rear windows;

**42 York:** to replace some windows and doors on condition the front door resembles the original as per guidelines;

**604 Belmont:** to replace windows;

**4866 St. Catherine:** at a Category I building, to replace basement windows provided they are metal clad as per guidelines;

**69 Somerville:** to enlarge a rear balcony and install a privacy screen;

**472 Mount Stephen:** at a Category I house, to replace two patio doors provided the muntins are S.D.L.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting September 18.

**46 Surrey Gardens:** at a Category I house, to rebuild a solarium;

**64 Rosemount Cresc.:** at a Category I house, to rebuild a solarium, modify some



14 Parkman Place on October 6.

Photos: Westmount Independent.

openings, install new windows, doors and railings;

**21 Stayner:** to replace doors and windows;

**315 Kensington:** to rebuild a rear balcony and do some landscaping at the rear;

**599 Lansdowne:** to rebuild the front stairs;

**741 Upper Roslyn:** to rebuild a front retaining wall;

**500 Wood:** at a Category: I house, two permits to replace doors and windows, and to restore the front balcony and parapet;

**492 Elm:** at a Category 1 house, to landscape and replace a back fence;

**378 Lansdowne:** to replace the front porch in classical roof fascia style;

**400 Côte St. Antoine:** to re-build a retaining wall;

**4311 Montrose:** to build a new pool, fences, retaining walls, and install mechanical equipment;

**27 Rosemount:** at a Category I house, landscaping in the front and side yards;

**486 Lansdowne:** to pave an existing parking apron;

**4132 Dorchester:** at a Category 1 house, landscaping at the front;

**8 Parkman Place:** at a Category I house, to replace two rear doors and windows;

**4132 Dorchester:** at a Category I building, to replace windows and the front door;

**81 Chesterfield:** to replace windows and doors, provided the interior and exterior of the front balcony door is in wood

and revised;

**76 Arlington:** to replace two windows and a patio door provided that item #1 consists of double-hung windows with three divisions;

**14 Parkman Place:** at a Category I house, to replace some back windows;

**4700 Westmount:** to replace a window;

**598 Victoria:** to replace the doors and windows;

**45 Holton:** at a Category: 1\* house, to cover the front stairs in St. Marc stone;

**107 Irvine:** to replace some windows;

**136 Irvine:** to rebuild the rear deck and do landscaping at the rear;

**484 Elm:** at a Category I house, to create an opening to replace two windows with a door;

**418 Grosvenor:** to replace windows.



22 Winchester on October 6.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

### Seeking members

The Dawson College Research Ethics Board is currently seeking new members. Visit [www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/reb](http://www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/reb) to apply or call 514-931-8731 ext.1416 for more information.

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# Azrieli awards 2nd commission prize for music

## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Westmounter **Sharon Azrieli** hosted a reception September 5 to award the 2018 Azrieli Commission for Jewish Music. This is the second time that the Azrieli Foundation has awarded the \$50,000 prize – touted to be the largest of its kind in Canada – which is granted to a Canadian composer based on a proposal for a new work that “expresses an aspect of the Jewish experience with artistry and musical excellence.”

The winner was **Kelly-Marie Murphy**, one of the most recognized voices on the Canadian music scene. Born on a NATO base in Sardegna, Italy, Murphy is currently adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa’s School of Music.

The reception was held at the tony Sofitel in the Square Mile district with a performance by the McGill Chamber Orchestra (MCO). The quartet played a

movement of Srul Irving-Glick’s “Suite Hebraique” to open the occasion and closed the event with a movement from Kelly-Marie Murphy’s quartet “A Little Piece of My Heart.”

Among the speakers was **Boris Brott**, jury member for the Azrieli prizes and artistic director of the MCO, the partner orchestra for the Azrieli Music Prizes Gala Concert in October 2018.

Westmount res and jury member **Barbara Seal** was present as was **Georges Nicholson**, formerly with Radio Canada, who acted as host.

Also noted were jury member and composer **Ana Sokolovic**; Sharon’s mother **Stephanie Azrieli**; and Azrieli Foundation board members **Ofer Drucker**, CEO, Matomy Media Group; and **Myer Bick**, CEO president, Jewish General Hospital Foundation.

Other guests included **Jean Dupré** and **Gabrielle Blackburn** of l’Orchestre Métropolitain; **Jonathan Burnham** from the Israeli consulate in Montreal; **Sharon Frankel**, executive director of Canadian Friends of Tel-Aviv University; famed opera singer **Joseph Rouleau**; **Claire Marchand**, Canadian Music Center Quebec;



Sharon Azrieli, left, and Kelly-Marie Murphy.

and **Scott Tresham** of the Concours musical international de Montréal.

See p. 22 for more photos.

Please send information on your fall fundraising gala/event to [redgrave@videotron.ca](mailto:redgrave@videotron.ca).

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21



Joseph Rouleau, left, and Claire Marchand.



Barbara Seal, left, and Ana Sokolovic.



Georges Nicholson.

Weiner, Abbey presidents at Cummings centre, foundation

Westmounters Roz Weiner and Philip Abbey have top board positions for 2017-2019 at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors organization. It became known at its annual general meeting June 17. Weiner became the centre's president, and Abbey president of its foundation.

In addition to the main campus on Westbury Ave., the centre offers programs for people over 50 through its Westmount "mini centre" at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

– VR

Weners donate Howe sculpture to Concordia

A group of Westmounters unveiled a plaque inaugurating a new artwork at Concordia University's Sir George William campus September 28. France Chrétien Desmarais, president of the Society for the Celebration of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, had helped convince Westmounters and Concordia graduates Susan and Jonathan Wener to donate an artwork to honour the city's 375th and Canada's 150th anniversaries.

The couple gave their daughter Katherine Wener the mandate to find an inspirational sculpture. She presented *Di-Octo* by American artist Anthony Howe. "I chose Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus as the site for *Di-Octo* because it was here that I began my journey as a student before embarking as a businessman and real estate developer," said Jonathan Wener.

Concordia president Alan Shepard, also a Westmounter, praised the work. "It is a visual metaphor for Concordia's strategic direction to embrace our city."

Also present at the ceremony were Bram Freedman, Concordia vice president, advancement and external relations, and Manon Gauthier, a '97 grad and member of the executive committee of the city of Montreal, responsible for culture, heritage and design.

Westmounters at the luncheon reception included Andrew Molson, Brian Becker, Yehouda Chaki, Armand Des Rosiers, Barbara and Victor Drury, Murray Goodz, Walter Gotlieb, Eric Maldoff, Douglas Pascal, Rhoda Vineberg and Clarence Epstein.

– VR



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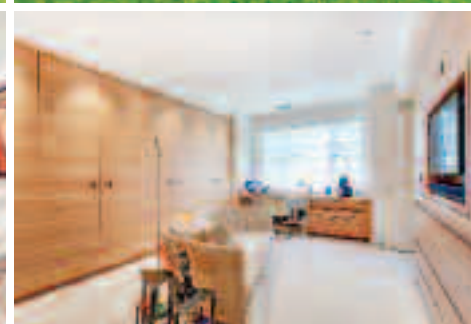
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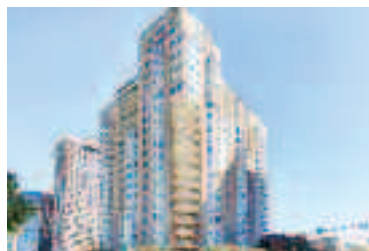
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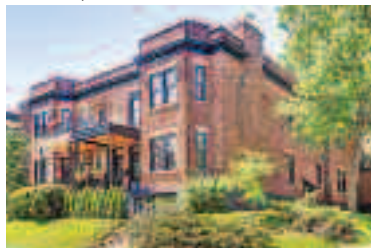
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