

Early public consultation to apply to all large projects

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council February 1 announced a new policy to provide information to citizens on all large-scale development projects and at an early stage in the approval process. It would apply to any project whose total interior space provides for some 10,000 square feet or more.

“What we need is an iron-clad policy regarding public consultation on major projects,” Mayor Peter Trent stated at the start of the council meeting.

This would likely take the form of an initial public meeting that would enable de-

velopers to present their plans to citizens and city representatives, he explained.

The new “principle” reverses the city’s long-held view that making such information available was not legally permitted unless required by law when a project required a zoning change or a demolition hearing. These typically occur at a well-advanced stage in the approval process.

The same new policy of informing citizens of projects under review at an early stage is to be built into the city’s proposed by-law governing non-conforming projects called “Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy of an Immovable” (SCAOP/PPCMOI).

At the same time, Trent said the city would be reviewing its Planning Program in light *continued on p. 13*

Contactivity launches carnival



Photo: Martin C. Barry

Left, Betty Shannon of Westmount, and Patty and Christopher Clark visiting from the Magdalen Islands flanking Contactivity Centre director Mary Stark mingle during the centre’s carnival luncheon on February 4. See p. 12.

Letters p. 8

9 Lives by L. FOWLER p. 18

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 17

Don't Miss It

“Norma Shearer: From Grosvenor Ave. to Sunset Boulevard,” Thurs., Feb. 18. See “Comin’ Up,” p. 12.

Open House Saturday 12-5pm

Time to review condo development: Trent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It is time to “come to grips” with the proliferation of condos that is changing the face of Westmount, Mayor Peter Trent told the city council meeting February 1.

The addition of so many dwelling units in buildings five storeys and over attracts smaller-sized households, which “flies in the face” of the city’s attempts to attract families to the community.

Trent cited census figures indicating that in 1951 there were 6,260 occupied private dwellings (houses and apartments) in the city with an average of four persons per dwelling. By 2011, with the construction of high-rise apartments and condos, the number had risen to 8,637 units despite a decrease in population. These were occupied by 2.2 persons.

This means taking an other look at the city’s *continued on p. 11*

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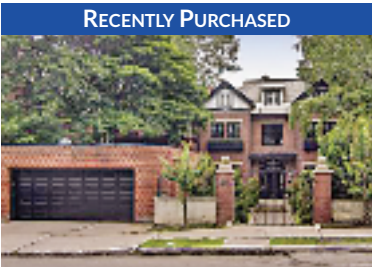
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Miss Vicky's pre-school fights Quebec ruling over drop-off time

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Miss Vicky's pre-school, located in St. Matthias' Church, is in a dispute with the Quebec government over a drop-off period in the morning, the *Independent* learned last week.

"She's going to stay open," public relations consultant Jonathan Goldbloom said last week. "We have an issue with the government and are optimistic we'll find a solution and that common sense will prevail."

At issue, he explained, is a ruling against the pre-school on Church Hill by the provincial Families ministry over the period between 8:30 and 9 am. This is when parents drop off their kids with some remaining with them afterward.

The school of some 80 children, age five years and under, operates as a "Jardin d'Enfants," which allows it four hours of operation from 9 am to 1 pm, he said.

Goldbloom, along with lawyer Julius Grey, is part of an advisory team that is helping the school approach the Quebec government to find a solution. He briefed a meeting of parents on the issue at the end of January.

A "hiccup" in the talks with the government, he said, materialized recently with the cabinet shuffle in which a new Families minister, Sébastien Proulx, took over January 28 from Francine Charbonneau, who had been looking into Miss Vicky's issue.

An internal letter from St. Matthias' Church to some committee members

dated January 22 stated that the ministry had found after investigation that Miss Vicky's did not conform to regulations and would have to discontinue services. It was contesting the ruling.

"I think we're all in a holding pattern," church rector Patrick Wheeler said last week. The school "provides an important service to the community, and it's our hope at St. Matthias' that [it] continues to do so for a long time."

Many of its students live in Westmount. The school also provides important revenue

to the church, one of the reasons the city adopted a rezoning measure more than two years ago to include a pre-school in a list of the building's permitted uses.

This allowed the school to obtain an occupancy permit though it had already been located at the church for some 20 years (see story May 14, 2013, p. 7).

While the morning session takes place in the church's parish hall off Church Hill, a separate afternoon program is offered in the large room on the lower floor off Côte St. Antoine.

For story, please see paper archive.



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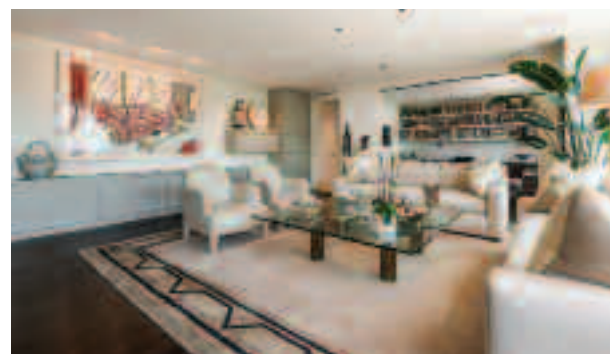
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Trent, Martin disagree over

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, took issue at the council meeting February 1 over a tax letter from Mayor Peter Trent to taxpayers January 28. The letter stated that capital works projects did not suffer from underfunding but from a problem of “throughput” or a low completion rate by Public Works.

Reading from a column he had written for the February 2 *Independent*, Martin claimed the city was “over taxing” and building up multi-million dollar surpluses while underspending on infrastructure that would take many years to make up.

After listening to Martin throughout his lengthy reading, Trent held up a copy of his tax letter saying: “He obviously didn’t read the second page!” which referred to surpluses.

The concept used by the city to fund capital works projects through pay-as-you-go meant that what isn’t spent in one year goes into surplus, Trent explained. “My whole point was: what’s the point of increasing the budget if it isn’t going to be spent?”

“If a budget is not used, who didn’t use it and why?” asked Richard Lock of Lansdowne.

“Every department is supposed to use its budget,” Trent replied, adding a budget was a target, however, and he didn’t have a problem if capital works spending exceeded it. He pointed out that because the city of Montreal, for example, goes out to borrow for capital works projects it doesn’t incur a surplus from a consistently low rate of completion.

Martin then answered Lock saying there were many reasons why a capital works budget may not be spent, such as weather delays and unforeseen circumstances.

Roadwork faced late spring

Roadwork, for example, which had spent some \$1.7 million (59 percent) of a \$2.9-million budget in 2015 faced a late spring. As well, Martin said a major reconstruction project (Prince Albert) was further delayed by the workers’ health and safety board (CSST) saying so many workers from different utilities could not work at the same time as had been scheduled. It is expected to be completed in 2016.

continued on p. 5



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John Fretz of the Westmount Municipal Association asked Trent for related figures, which were subsequently sent to him.



Councillor Patrick Martin, left, and Mayor Peter Trent, right, disagree over Trent's tax letter.

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Drones whiz around Centre Greene's gym

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It could have been mistaken for a scene from a video game or outer space as drones raced through and around an obstacle course in the gym at Centre Greene January 19.

Piloting them from the sidelines were eight members of an organization called FPV Montreal, appropriately named for the “first person view” their goggles provide as if they were in the pilot’s seat.

The Centre Greene event was a regular meeting and racing practice for the group, explained FPV founder and director Matthew Zoern. Two of those present – This drone was one of the many “flying robots” racing into the gym January 19. Gabriel Kocher and Ryan Walker – are considered the best drone pilots in North America, he said.

Most of the drones operated by the group have been assembled by their own-

ers or assisted by colleagues. “For the most part, they’re made from scratch,” Zoern said. “We order the parts, many from China.”

These include electrical components and computer software whose assembly require intricate calculations to ensure, among other things for example, that the motors don’t draw more power than the batteries can provide.

In the midst of the Centre Greene event, one of the drones suddenly became snarled in an unplanned obstacle – a basketball net. It hung there trapped to general laughter.

Some of the group hope to be chosen to compete in an international competition in Dubai this spring, Zoern said.

Selection is based on videos they were required to submit though no date is yet known.

Despite some drone groups in school,



This drone was one of the many “flying robots” racing into the gym January 19.



From left are: David Whiddon and Matthew Zoern along with Ryan Walker and Gabriel Kocher, who captured second and first place respectively in an Ontario competition the following weekend.

FPV Montreal is the only organization of its kind in the Montreal area, he said. It has a membership of some 300.

And when Zoern isn’t flying drones at the meetings, he works as executive producer for Nvizzio Creations video games.





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Infrastructure work: Our problem is output, not funding

Mayor's Column

PETER TRENT

In Councillor Patrick Martin's column regarding my tax letter ("Westmount's infrastructure challenge," February 9, p. 7), he starts off by saying he is *not* as impressed as the mayor is with this year's 18-percent increase in capital projects, especially as it includes \$1 million (almost half the increase) for new parking meters."

First of all, the pedant in me has to correct the latter assertion: the parking meters do not represent anything near one-half of the budget increase. Last year's budget had already \$650,000 booked for this project. So parking meters represent only 16 percent of the increase.

Now on to my main point. Councillor Martin, in common with all of council, wants more infrastructure investment, and an 18-percent increase is not enough for him. What he has not understood is that the increase is 39 percent. Let me explain.

Councillor Martin, who is our commissioner of Public Works, confuses "capital projects" with infrastructure investment. The latter is a subset of the former; they are not equivalent. "Capital projects" include all sorts of odds and sods unrelated to pure infrastructure. They include vehicles, computers, software, radios, and, yes, parking meters. If you are worried that you are not spending enough on your house's infrastructure compared to last year, you don't include in your calculations the purchase of a car, cell phone or computer.

Let's compare

So let's do what he didn't: let's strip out all the non-infrastructure items and *then*

compare the true infrastructure spending increase budgeted for 2016:

	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	Increase
Roads	2,891,300	4,926,200	70%
Hydro Wst.	1,950,000	2,340,000	20%
Water/sewers	1,832,300	2,399,200	31%
Buildings	1,037,400	993,200	-4%
Parks	693,400	1,024,500	48%
Total infrastructure	8,404,400	11,683,100	39%

I think you'll agree a 39-percent increase is a long way from 18 percent; enough, one hopes, even to impress Councillor Martin. But all one had to do was read my tax letter to get examples of the kinds of increases I am showing above.

To achieve the \$4.9-million roads budget this year will require a Herculean effort, as we only actually accomplished \$1.7 million of roadwork in 2015. And that leads me to another point. Councillor Martin complains of Public Works' "insufficient capital spending allowances" and "chronic underfunding" when his department, in each of the last four years, has not even spent the money they were given!

He blames this poor performance on "year after year...hiring freezes." While we always monitored headcounts, there has never been a hiring freeze. On the contrary, a number of commissioners have successfully persuaded council to increase their staffing.

Then Councillor Martin informs us that any delay in completing a capital project by the end of the year does *not* contribute to the surplus. He, once again, is wrong. If he can find an experienced municipal accountant to agree with him, I'll write an abject letter of apology. Because of pay-as-you-go, we fund these projects as part of the operating budget. If we don't spend all we budgeted for in a given year, the difference goes directly to surplus. That's how \$1.7 million of the 2014 surplus was created.

This brings me to another common

question. Why did we not "give back" the massive 2014 surplus through a tax rebate? Well, we are doing that, but not in a lump sum. Had we done so, we would then have had to apply our decision described in my 2015 tax letter – written before we were made aware of this surplus – of charging a 2.5-percent "premium" on the tax bill to fund a sustained boost in infrastructure investment. But that's not all; with not enough accumulated surplus to pay off our \$36-million debt as it comes due over the next four years, we would have had to charge the difference to taxpayers anyway.

Council has no desire to force Westmount taxpayers to climb on a fiscal merry-go-round; a ride during which they get off at the same place they got on. All members of council agreed with this strategy last December.

Incidentally, council also had, some time ago, agreed with my October 2013 statement: "The WRC project took much time and energy and now the accent needs to be placed on maintenance and infrastructure."

One final thing. It is my practice to give drafts of my general mailings to all members of council (and our professional staff) for comments and corrections before sending. This way, my letters tend to reflect council's views, not just my own. On January 11, I handed a draft of my 2016 tax letter to every councillor. Seven out of eight were okay with it. Eleven days later – after my letter was translated and being printed – Councillor Martin informed me he disagreed with some of its statements. Sigh. A politician's lot is not a happy one.

This is unfortunate. Financial matters are complicated enough without needless public friction concerning *verifiable* facts. It only serves to confuse rather than to enlighten.

Peter Trent is mayor of the city of Westmount.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLARIFYING SCAOPI BY-LAW

I wish to respond to the letter by Ken London ("More exploration needed on Prince Albert project," January 26, p. 4) and clarify the issues he raises.

The first concerns the demolition by-law and the second, the nature of projects subject to approval by way of referendum.

If a developer were to apply for a demolition permit, it would be reviewed under the demolition by-law, and the draft SCAOPI By-law 1489 would not wave this obligation. The by-laws concerned under the SCAOPI by-law deal with construction, subdivision and zoning. Any legal procedure imposed by another by-law would remain, therefore a demolition hearing would still take place. It should be noted however that there is no referendum in the demolition process but there is the possibility of having one with the new SCAOPI process.

The second point that requires clarification is which projects would be considered eligible to a referendum. As I have mentioned at council, it is not the SCAOPI by-law nor council that determines which projects are subject to approval by way of referendum. The legislative powers are

found under the Provincial Land Planning Act, which guides our actions and determines from the outset of the process which projects are subject to a referendum. Residents will know from the start if a project will be subject to a referendum process.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that the SCAOPI by-law is a planning tool that will provide council and the administration with strict evaluation criteria and a clear process, as well as providing residents with a true opportunity to intervene and improve any redevelopment projects in their immediate neighbourhood.

We have listened to residents' request for earlier input in the process, and I will be tabling the revised draft by-law incorporating an additional notification step for residents at the March council meeting.

COUNCILLOR THEODORA SAMIOTIS

BICYCLE PATHS NEED MORE THAN PAINTED LINES

The Canadian government took an active part in the success of the Paris agreement on climate change last December. It even supported 1.5-degrees C as being the upper limit of average temperature

change. Science reports that we have already reached a 1.0-degree C change. No need here to list the consequences of unbridled temperature rise. Unsustainable transportation is a major contributor to climate change.

Everyone has the right to infrastructure that allows him/her to live a sustainable lifestyle. Essential to that right is an integrated network of protected bicycle paths. Every citizen should be within close proximity to such a network.

Westmount city council must lead on this important issue. It needs to endorse, construct and maintain such a network. More importantly, it needs to promote the network use as being the preferred means of urban transport. The continual abrogation of our urban spaces to unsustainable motor vehicles must be reversed. And it must be a protected bicycle path network, not painted lines.

We Westmounters are in the middle of the stream causing climate change. At the most basic level, we need infrastructure that allows responsible citizens to move out of that stream. A significant part of the younger generation understands. They no longer define themselves by a car. I believe they consider urban cycling as being pedestrian, that is propelled by one's feet, not only within their own neighbourhood but across the city.

Westmount must support them and Canada's commitment to save the Earth's climate.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

PRICEY TO SWIM

I am delighted with my recent tax bill – as much as anyone can be happy with taxes.

But, I would like to question the cost of

swimming in the pool this summer. It was \$25 last year. Will it really cost \$40 this year? I am referring to the increase in cost of the Sports and Recreation pass. This is a huge increase for seniors! Perhaps we will have a cool summer this year...

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

INFRASTRUCTURE UNDERFUNDED

Anyone reading Councillor Patrick Martin's column in last week's *Independent* (February 2, p. 7) would have come to the conclusion that our elected representatives have not been candid about the amount of deterioration of our infrastructure that has occurred over the years. The situation at Westmount Hydro is especially worrisome. Mayor Peter Trent has been our leader for many of the years in which this current sad state of affairs had been allowed to develop. The buck always stops at the most senior person, the mayor. The state of our infrastructure is woeful. Just drive along our major thoroughfares to get a taste. It gets worse when you drive on the smaller streets.

Try Sunnyside for example; you would also note that the one section recently resurfaced is already deteriorating. The expression "penny saved, pound-foolish" would certainly apply to the staffing of our grossly undermanned Public Works department. I can give you a horror story about the work at the corner of Sunnyside and Belvedere. Interestingly enough, the magnitude of the deterioration became evident following the massive budgeting error of last year with the resulting jackpot for our city at the expense of the citizens. Maybe it is time for an ABT campaign for our next election.

JOHN ZBARSKY, BELVEDERE RD.

Who owns the trees?

Public safety officers stopped pruners from cutting down a few "smaller" trees alongside public stairs leading to Sunnyside January 28, Public Security officials said. A call from police about trees being cut on Aberdeen north of The Boulevard was found to relate to the back of a property on Sunnyside. While the resident contended the trees were located on her property, the work was stopped until Urban Planning inspectors could check them out.

Dogs found with licence tags

A verification of dog tags at the runs in Westmount Park and King George (Murray) Park found six without the required licences between January 28 and February 1, Public Security officials said. Owners were given 14 days to obtain valid permits. All but one were identified as Westmount residents.

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The Study hears from Assassin's Creed programmer Laidacker



Seen in the photo January 20, from left: The Study students Joyce Choi, Sarah Petrecca, speaker Aleissia Laidacker, and students Katerina Petropoulos, Sonia Jacob and Sofia Charmand.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Study's second speaker during the school's ongoing 100th anniversary was Aleissia Laidacker, January 20, from computer software maker Ubisoft. With 15 years experience in programming, Laidacker joined the company as a programmer nine years ago, and some of her credits include work on video game series *Assassin's Creed*.

Laidacker is currently the lead gameplay programmer at Ubisoft Montreal. Although she is not an alumna of The Study, she was invited to speak since the school emphasizes the technological education of girls.

A show of hands during her talk revealed a large number of girls at the school do programming and enjoy computer gaming.

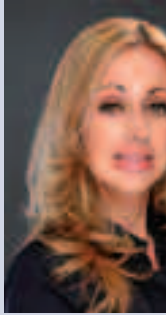


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Man intercepted overnight by Public Security changes story

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Special overnight surveillance in the Victoria village by Public Security after several break-ins in the commercial area resulted in a man being intercepted twice February 1 while “acting suspiciously.”

He was first spotted at 1:17 am at the northeast corner of Claremont and Somerville as he leaned into a parked car. When intercepted, he claimed to be cleaning off mud. He produced keys to the car and said he had stopped to see a friend who turned out to be asleep.

The “suspect” claimed to be leaving right away because he had a flight to catch at 5 am.

Unconvinced, the patroller went around the block then parked, lights off, to watch the man’s next move.

The car went north on Claremont and stopped at Sherbrooke. It then reversed toward Winchester and backed into the lane running behind the backs of businesses on Sherbrooke. The car was then parked in the private lot belonging to Salon

Sophie. The patroller followed the car into the lane, parked and intercepted the driver a second time as he walked out onto Claremont.

Questioned for having been on private property, the man claimed to be meeting a friend. At this point, a passing police patrol stopped on Claremont to assist the public safety officer and identify the man. A St. Henri resident, he was ticketed \$149 for being on private property.

“The officer found the man’s actions to be very suspicious as well as his changing stories,” said Public Security director Greg McBain. He said the man’s location near the scene of two of the recent break-ins contributed to the concerns.

Two of the break-ins involved the smashing of a display window just east of Salon Sophie where one incident was captured on videotape along with a description of the suspect.

While he did not resemble the St. Henri resident, the latter could have been working with the “friend” he was supposed to meet, McBain suggested.

Condos cont'd. from p. 1

Planning Program, Trent said, to determine whether the impact of “the condo craze is a good thing” and its effect on many aspects including density. “I’m not anti-condo,” Trent said. “I’m just saying maybe we should take a look at it.”

Two condo developments were completed recently at 215 Redfern and 175 Met-

calfe while two more are known to be proposed.

One, on the Metro and parking lot site at Sherbrooke and Victoria, is slated for 80 units. Another, just announced, is projected for the property of 4898 de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert to extend over another large parking lot.

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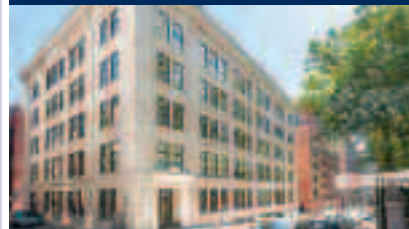
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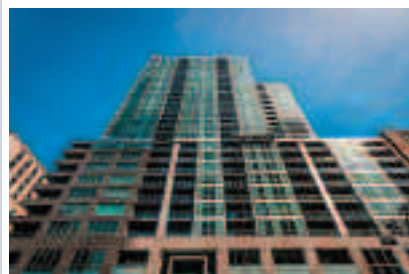
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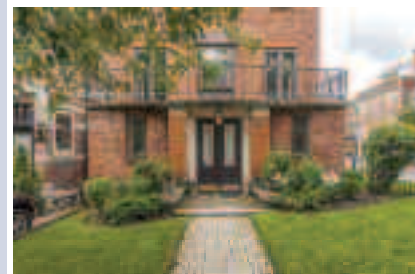
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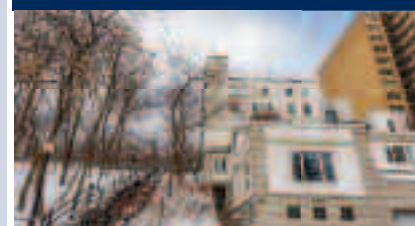
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Part 1 of the Independent's series on summer camps

Long-time Westmount camper, counsellor looks back – and forward on summer camp

By JOANNE PENHALE

Do your research, sign them up – and then let go. This is some of the advice to parents about sending their kids to summer camp from Centre Greene day camp counsellor and activity coordinator Alex Aiken, 29. Aiken has worked at various summer camps since his late teens, he said, and before that, regularly attended the city of Westmount's summer camps from the age of six to 13.

What are your best childhood memories of Westmount's summer day camps?

Playing sports with my counsellors, and the spirit of healthy competition. My counsellors taught competition but also sportsmanship.

What's a common challenge you've experienced working at summer camps over the years?

You always encounter challenges amongst children. When you bring so many kids together who don't necessarily know each other, you're bound to have inconsistencies between them.

As a counsellor, how do you deal with these challenges?

I try to break down cliques. I tend to integrate myself into a clique in a friendly way, assert myself and then transition the group's attention to other kids, like by introducing them to new kids. That breaks down the initial resistance kids might have to letting other kids into their social group.

What should parents take into consideration when choosing camps for their kids?

Look at the environment your kids will spend time in, and the variety of activities – and be sure they suit your child.

If your child has certain personal needs, like help integrating, it's beneficial to have



Centre Greene's Alex Aiken, 29, on January 22.

a smaller environment and a lower ratio of campers to counsellors. Some camps are more like a zoo, without much supervision, and that can be hard for kids.

What can parents do to make sure their kids have a positive camp experience?

One of the most important things is making a clean break when camp starts. We often see parents who have trouble letting go of their kid's hand. It's difficult for the child to let go of the comfort of a mother's hand, but if the mother, or the father, is more encouraging

and says, "You're going to have a good time. I'll see you later!" that tends to make kids more comfortable.

Also, ongoing communication is really key. Make sure your child has enough

snacks, make sure they have a fork if they need one. Pay attention to these details. And engage with the counsellor – ask if their child is having any difficulties.

How can camps ensure their counsellors are competent?

The most important thing is to have a competent coordinator. Whoever is in charge needs the relevant qualifications, like a degree in childhood development. There's a tendency to hire younger counsellors like high school graduates and CEGEP students. These counsellors often bring energy and enthusiasm rather than experience, and that's not necessarily a good thing. Maturity is an important consideration.

How have you noticed summer day camps have changed over the years?

Westmount's camps used to be divided into sports-focused camps and arts and crafts camps, and these are all integrated into one camp now. On the other hand, there are also a lot of one-note camps out there, like astronaut camp.

Overall, I find there's a lot more emphasis in individual development in children, and camps are less likely to be thought of as babysitting service.

Contactivity Centre holds Seniors' carnival luncheon

By MARTIN C. BARRY

There was a good turn-out of members of the Contactivity Centre for their annual Seniors' Carnival Luncheon on February 4.

Traditionally, the luncheon has always been the first event at the annual Westmount Winter Carnival, which took place last weekend.

Among those helping to serve the barbecue chicken lunch followed by dessert were Westmount city councillor Rosalind Davis, as well as staff from the Westmount recreation centre.

With Valentine's Day not far off, the room was decorated with hearts, and people whose birthdays are in February were

treated to a special piece of cake topped with a candle.

Two particularly special guests at the luncheon travelled far to be there. Chris and Patty Clark, from Quebec's Magdalen Islands, come to Westmount once a year for several weeks to housesit a friend's residence.

Following the luncheon, the Clarks contacted the *Independent* by e-mail.

"We are so happy that the Contactivity family (staff, volunteers, members) have welcomed us so graciously into their fold," they said. "We didn't expect such small town hospitality in the big city. A truly brilliant ray of sunshine."

See photo, p. 1.

Comin' Up

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

"The McGill Commitment: Supporting our Students as They Grow in Leadership Roles," with speaker Suzanne Fortier, principal and vice chancellor of McGill, 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5305 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Fee for non-members \$10. No reservations required. Info: 514.932.4005.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Westmount Historical Association's "Norma Shearer: From Grosvenor Avenue to Sunset Boulevard," with speaker: Ok-sana Dykyj," from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cost: \$5 for

non-members at the door. Info: www.westmounthistorical.org or 514.989.5510.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The Atwater Library's AWE project features "In Others' Words/Dans les mots des autres," 7 pm with author and translator David Homel and translator Marianne Champagne, who discuss the role of translation in general and in the Quebec context.

Writer Mary Soderstrom leads the Atwater Library Book Club from 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm in a discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

Project notification, consultation discussed at meeting

cont'd. from p. 1

of the “condo craze” (see separate story, p. 1). At least two large condo projects are known to be awaiting adoption of the PPCMOI by-law.

While residents over the years have requested early access to plans of all new building projects, including homes and additions that might negatively impact them, Trent later told the *Independent* that could follow in the future.

Quebec's law on public consultation is evolving through upcoming Bill 47 to permit more extensive and active public consultation, he said. “Our lawyer feels we can make immediate changes to our practice, even if the law has yet to be adopted. We can add steps that are ‘inspired’ by the upcoming law.

“That said, it seems we cannot ‘communicate’ an architect’s plans without his/her approval – at least at this stage in the process. But the plans can be consulted at a public meeting.”

The key principle the city wants to establish by way of a council resolution, he added, “is establishing a mandatory public consultation early so that plans can be consulted for any major project regardless of whether or not a zoning change or demolition is necessary.”

He said council’s decision at this time to provide “earlier” information and generate public participation has arisen from requests related to the PPCMOI by-law.

Earlier PPCMOI info

Councillor Theodora Samiotis outlined how citizens would be informed about such non-conforming projects.

Once plans had undergone a preliminary review by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee, she said, they would be posted on the city website for a minimum of 30 days, during which citizens could provide feedback.

This notification would inform citizens the city had received a PPCMOI development application. It would include reasons and documentation on what the project would look like and what was being sought in terms of a zoning amendment.

After this period, the council would decide whether to approve the project. If it moved forward, it would follow the regular schedule laid down by the provincial government for a PPCMOI project leading to a possible referendum. This procedure includes a public consultation meeting followed by a hearing if demolition were to be required.



Councillor Theodora Samiotis outlines changes to PPCMOI by-laws.



Jeremy Cooperstock asks for draft copy.

The “early” notification is consistent with the city’s new direction to “clarify” the permit process, Samiotis said. It also is designed to reduce “a lot of stress in people” and increase dialogue.

“The city will still do our best to urge the developers to meet with citizens as early as possible in the process,” Samiotis told the *Independent*. In accordance with provincial regulations, however, this would not be written into the PPCMOI by-law as citizens have requested, she added.

The modified PPCMOI by-law is expected to be presented for approval at the March 7 council meeting.

Jeremy Cooperstock of Grosvenor was among several residents during question period who thanked the council for providing a way for citizens to obtain “earlier” information. He asked whether residents could receive changes to the

PPCMOI by-law “well in advance” of its adoption. Samiotis said council members would be further discussing them at a general committee meeting February 15, after which they would be posted on the city website.

Irma Alvarez of York St. said the changes were welcome and going “in the right direction.”

Man spaced out, blares music from car

Public safety officers were called to Park Place at 11:19 pm February 1 for loud music from a car. Public Security officials said they found a man asleep behind the wheel of the parked vehicle, a plastic bag of white power in his hands. When they tried without success to waken him, police were called. The engine was turned off, and the man was arrested for being in control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of narcotics. Three bags of marijuana were found in the car along with one possibly containing cocaine.

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419 Mount Stephen Ave.: Named for a lord



*History by
the house*
ANDY DODGE, CRA

The lead source of the information derived for this column comes from the deeds of sale, including the naming of owners' professions or livelihoods.

The recent discussion over the former Mount Stephen Club in downtown Montreal brings up the question of how the elegant mansion got its name, and what is the connection with Westmount's Mount Stephen Ave., created from the sprawling estate of William Murray.

As it turns out, the name of Mount Stephen was applied to George Stephen, the first (and only) Baron Mount Stephen, who was president of the Bank of Montreal and one of the founders of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). He was a native of Scotland, who immigrated to Canada (and

Montreal) along with various members of his family, including first cousins William Stephen and Donald Smith. The latter, who co-founded the CPR along with other business ventures while hopping back and forth between England and Canada, was named Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal in 1897. A year later, George Stephen retired from CPR and moved back to England, thrilled with the fact that CPR had named a mountain in the Rockies after him. As the first Canadian to be offered a peerage, he adopted the name of Lord Mount Stephen.

Westmount, of course, owes its name to William Murray who built his lovely "West Mount" mansion just above Côte St. Antoine Rd. in the 1850s. Another prominent Scottish businessman, he founded the Beaver Steamship Lines in 1867 but passed away in 1874; by 1903 the family sold off most of the hillside below Côte St. Antoine – reaching to Sherbrooke St., which was then in place – to Charles W. Spencer, divisional superintendent of



419 Mount Stephen Ave., photographed January 29.

History of 419 Mount Stephen Ave. (since construction)		
Date	Buyer	Price
31-Jul-1906	Charles W. Davies, manufacturer	\$8,000
17-Feb-1919	Edith Mabel Davis, wife of A. Huntly Duff	\$8,000
21-Feb-1919	Leon M. Gouin, advocate	\$12,250
10-Oct-1944	André Montpetit	\$8,000
20-Apr-1972	Brian S. Sharp, investment broker representative	\$32,000
26-Oct-1973	James D. Baillie, executive	\$43,500
4-Jan-1974	estate Donald A. MacInnes	\$65,000
16-Oct-1980	Robert Grosso & Simon Pierre Marcil	\$150,200
1-May-1981	L. R. O'Hagan & Wanda Bonar	\$150,200
3-Jul-1985	John Zabriskie & Adelaide Werner	\$200,000
9-Feb-1989	Victoria Connelly, social worker	\$435,000
7-Jan-2003	Lorraine Briscoe	\$670,000
29-Jul-2010	Alain Royer & Michèle Bergevin	\$965,000
15-Sep-2011	E. R. de Boer & M. de Boer-Lim Wen-Sze	\$1,070,000
27-Feb-2014	H. Takhmizdjan & Kathy Shakibnia.	\$1,050,000

the CPR, for a cool \$424,313 or 25 cents per square foot. It may have been Spencer's influence that convinced Westmount to rename Athol St. (Athol means "pleasant place" in Scotland, according to the website of Athol, Massachusetts) as Mount Stephen Ave. and to run another north-south street parallel to that with Strathcona's name attached.

Already the city had subdivided the land for development, but apparently the Murray estate was holding out for the opportune moment to sell. Spencer sought help from two other businessmen, W. Herbert Evans, a coal merchant, and Andrew F. Gault, known as the "cotton king" of Canada. They set about planning the actual development of houses, as well as a new street named Springfield Ave., and sold off 6,000 square feet of land to Charles J. Brown, a real estate agent who built two semi-detached houses on Mount Stephen, with the option to build a third house attached to them at the corner of Springfield. Brown paid 48 cents per square foot for the land, built the houses and sold them off in 1906 to John L. Eaves and Charles W. Davies, then used the money earned to build the third

continued on p. 16

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Winter carnival party goes ‘all around the world’



Dozens of kids danced to the sounds of Rock the Red Superior Sound.



Roasting marshmallows was as popular as ever, even though several marshmallows became inedible charred coals.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

down the slopes in Westmount Park.

Inside the WRC, participants made cotton and paper plate snowmen while mixed hockey teams battled it out on the ice on the Molson rink or took advantage of a full day of free skating on the Desmarais rink.

The new Mouton Noir Café was popular for those who wanted to take a break.

The sold-out “All Around the World Party” held at Victoria Hall February 5 between 5:30 and 9:30 pm was hopping from the moment the doors opened. The lively

rock music and energetic dancers from “Rock the Red” Superior Sound attracted a large crowd of dancing kids.

A photo booth with a continental backdrop and props got lots of attention in one corner. In line with the around-the-world theme, children were issued a carnival “passport,” in which they had to inscribe their name, nationality and date of birth.

The evening’s activities were coordinated by Caroline Proctor with Community Events & Logistics and other other

city employees and volunteers.

The meal was put together by a committee including Amy Creighton and Donna Lach. It included Mexican taquitos, salad, Greek and Chinese food.

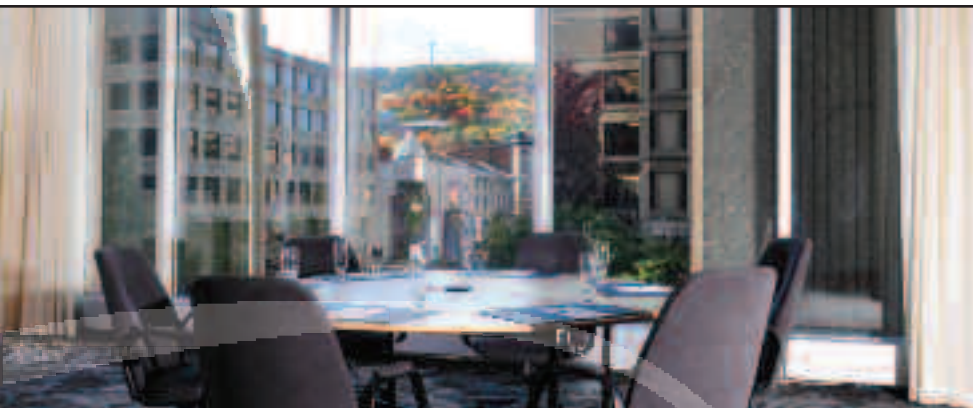
“Everything is biodegradable, compostable or recyclable” said Creighton. “We try to provide a healthy, environmentally friendly example for the kids.”



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House history cont'd. from p. 14
house.

Charles Davies, managing director of the Williams Manufacturing Company, which made typewriters and sewing machines, thus found that his small house became a row-house with the number 419 Mount Stephen, for which he paid \$8,000. It appears from *Lovell's Directory* that he never moved in, instead renting to Alexander Huntly Duff, KC, a well-known Montreal lawyer, who died in about 1917. His widow, Edith Mabel Davis (Davies?) paid Charles Davies the same \$8,000 in February 1919, then turned around and sold the property four days later to Leon Mercier Gouin, another prominent lawyer who

eventually became a senator. His father was Lomer Gouin, who was premier of Quebec at that time; his grandfather was Honoré Mercier, premier of Quebec from 1887 to 1891.

Gouin and his bride, Yvette Ollivier, brought up their four children in the house, where they stayed until 1944, when they sold to another lawyer, André Montpetit, for \$8,000. He and his wife, Madeleine Prévost, brought up two children in the house while he was climbing through the ranks to become a Superior Court judge, before selling to Brian S. Sharp, an “investment broker representative,” in 1972, for \$32,000. Sharp stayed there only a year and a half before selling to James Douglas Baillie for \$43,500; a lit-

tle over two months later, it changed hands again, this time to the estate of Donald Alexander MacInness, whose participants included his widow, Margaret Jane Leggat, who lived there for six years.

Robert Grosso and Simon Pierre Marcil were the next buyers. Each had a family, and they lived in various parts of Montreal, but they put out \$150,200 to buy the house in October 1980, then sold it the following May for \$219,000 to L. Richard O’Hagan, who had been press secretary and advisor to Lester B. Pearson and Pierre Trudeau before joining the Bank of Montreal as vice president for public affairs. After he became a senior vice president of the bank, he and his wife sold the row-house to John Zabriskie, who started his career with Merck, Frosst & Co. and its various itera-

tions, eventually (1993) becoming chairman and CEO of The Upjohn Co.

By then he had sold the house to Victoria Connelly, a social worker and divorced wife of Westmount lawyer Robert Johnston; 14 years later she sold to Lorraine Briscoe, a chartered public accountant who eventually became the finance officer for Marianopolis College. Other buyers include Evert Rinke de Boer and his wife, Mathilda de Boer-Lim Wen-Sze, who were married in Singapore and moved back there once they sold to the current owners.

Hovsep Takhmizdjian is vice president of Multi-Chic, a fashion boutique in Laval, and director of the Montreal chapter of the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief. His wife, Kathy Shakibnia, is a senior counsel at the Royal Bank of Canada.



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Ce règlement a pour objet d'élargir le champ des pouvoirs conférés au conseil local du patrimoine conformément à la *Loi sur le patrimoine culturel* et d'obliger le conseil local du patrimoine à inclure les recommandations du ou des spécialistes d'un domaine lié au patrimoine dans l'opinion qu'il soumet au conseil.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

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

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 9 février 2016.

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
BY-LAW 1496**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law No. 1496 entitled “*BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1320 TO ESTABLISH A PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE*” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its regular sitting held at City Hall on February 1st, 2016.

The object of this by-law is to broaden the scope of powers granted to the local heritage council in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act and to oblige the local heritage council to include the recommendations of the specialist(s) in a field related to heritage in its opinion to Council.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any person may consult 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 in Westmount, from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this 9th day of February 2016.

Martin St-Jean
Greffier/ City Clerk

www.westmount.org



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



**AVIS D'ADOPTION
RÈGLEMENT 1492**

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le règlement n° 1492 intitulé « *RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 1300 SUR LES PERMIS ET CERTIFICATS* » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 1^{er} février 2016.

Ce règlement a pour objet de modifier le *Règlement 1300 sur les permis et certificats* afin qu'il respecte le nouveau schéma d'aménagement et de développement de l'agglomération de Montréal qui est entré en vigueur le 1^{er} avril 2015.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

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

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 9 février 2016.

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
BY-LAW 1492**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law No. 1492 entitled “*BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES BY-LAW 1300*” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its regular sitting held at City Hall on February 1st, 2016.

The object of this by-law is to modify the *Permits and Certificates By-law* in order to comply with the new Land Use Planning and Development Plan of the urban agglomeration of Montréal that came into force on April 1st, 2015.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any person may consult 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 in Westmount, from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this 9th day of February 2016.

Martin St-Jean
Greffier/ City Clerk

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Greek consul general at Shield of Athena event



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Ogilvy's handsome Tudor room with its wood-paneled walls has always been an elegant space for events. On November 8, Shield of Athena held its 21st annual art auction and afternoon reception there under the "High patronage of His Excellency the Consul General of Greece **Nicolas Sigalas**," according to the invitation.

The non-profit organization gathered work by 32 local artists, including **Norma Akkelian**, **Bedros Aslanian**, **Jan Delikat**, **Georgia Priniotakis**, **Thomas De Souza**, **Pei Yang** and **Marek Zoltak**. Works by Canadian artists were also shown, including that of **Paul Soulikias** and **Katerina Mertikas**. Several silk screen prints by A.Y. Jackson, founding member of the Group



Vince Guzzo and Chris Ann Nakis.



Nicolas Sigalas and Melpa Kamateros.

Pâtisserie St. Martin.

The event honoured **Vincent Guzzo** of Guzzo Theatres and Global Montreal's **Travis Todd**, who contributed in the production of the "Never, Ever" PSA about violence against women. They were the recipients of this year's recognition award. The production features former hockey players **Chris Nilan** and **Georges Laraque** and former **Alouette Bruno Heppell**.

Emcee was **Erangelinda Boquer** and the auctioneer was **Garry Peterson** of Coach House Auc-

tions.

Honoured guests included Westmount resident **Nina Maria Fite**, the US consul general in Montreal, as well as **Christiane Yoakim**, municipal councillor, city of Laval. They were welcomed by **Melpa Kamateros**, executive director and one of the founding members of the Shield of Athena.

Also noted were **Nadia Saputo**, patron of next year's art auction; **Marika Coulourides**, (whose father was consul general of Greece in Montreal for over 20 years); **Aline Papazian**; **Nick and Matina Priftakis**; **Myrna Southam**; artist **John Gouzopoulos** and his wife **Helen**, with their son **Tim**; and Shield powerhouse president **Chris Ann Nakis**.

Thanks to the hard-working committee, \$100,000 was raised to support victims of family violence. Part of the funds will also be used for the establishment of a second-step shelter that will provide longer housing to women and their children who are

rebuilding their lives. Shield of Athena services are offered in 17 languages.

*Please send information on your
upcoming spring event to
redgrave@videotron.ca.*



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Travis Todd and Nadia Saputo.

of Seven, were also available for bidding.

I loved the idea behind the raffle tickets! Volunteer **Polly Tsonis**, who designs jewellery in her spare time, created charming pale green (jadeite), pale pink and black-stone bracelets instead of boring paper tickets. Guests purchased between one and three bracelets, and not only had a chance to win, but could keep the lovely memento as wristwear.

The scent of Schwartz's smoked meat greeted guests as they arrived. The chic crowd was also tempted by the jumbo shrimp and roast beef offered by Exanimo and Verger Biologique Maniadakis, paired with wines from Barefoot. Sweets were by



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Amputee Jack, senior Jet



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Jack, no longer alone, injured

I originally asked Gerdy's Rescue for another photograph of young Jack. I didn't want to present this picture of him coming out of veterinary hospital after his leg amputation because it upset me. But, if I had seen him when he was found abandoned and badly injured from being hit by a car, I would certainly have been even more upset.

So, we must remember that this photograph is a witness to the second part of Jack's young life, after being rescued and diligently cared for by veterinarians for Gerdy's Rescue. I am most pleased to report that he is now in foster care and doing very well, trotting around on his three legs, enjoying life.

Jack is a delightful and affectionate one-

year-old orange and white tabby with warm amber eyes. He has received all his inoculations, is neutered and is in excellent health, minus a back leg. He is just the perfect family cat. Hopefully you will consider making him yours to give him all the love a caring family can offer.

Jet, 11 years old

Jet is a handsome grey and white tabby, with fascinating green eyes. A stocky fellow, Jet is affectionate and playful. This cat is presently in foster care for Gerdy's Rescue, as he was left by his owners.



In spite of changing circumstances, he remains quite friendly and very outgoing.

Jet is very healthy for an 11-year-old, is up to date with his vaccinations and is neutered.

Jet was declawed on all four paws before he came for adoption, which makes him an indoor-only fellow.

If you would like more information on Jack or Jet, please contact Gerdy's Rescue on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email info@gerdysrescue.org. There is also information on the dedicated group of volunteers at the rescue on their website www.gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount Unexplained

Miss Scarlet, in the ballroom, with the wrench?



A 10-inch wrench was seen at the base of a lamppost on Lansdowne below The Boulevard the morning of January 28. Both wrench and its host appeared worn.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Out-of-towner rescued from middle of St. Catherine St.

A woman found lying in the middle of St. Catherine near Gladstone at 2:26 am February 1 by public safety officers was reported intoxicated, agitated and unable to walk. Urgences Santé was called and took the woman to hospital. She stated she had been in Montreal from out of town for only two hours.

Dog heard barking from inside home

A dog owner on Columbia was sent a ticket for \$77 after Public Security received a complaint about a barking dog January 29 at 10 pm. Department officials said responding officers found a large dog at a second-storey window that could be heard barking from the street. Attempts to reach the resident proved unsuccessful, but the ticket was issued since similar complaints had been received recently.

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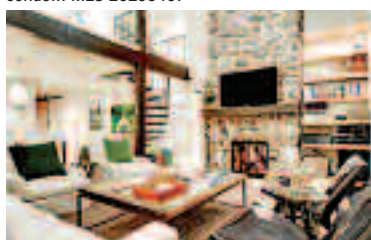
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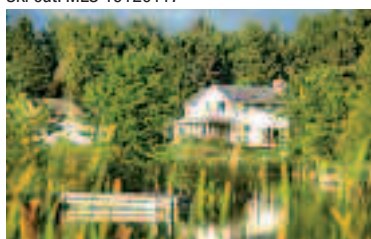
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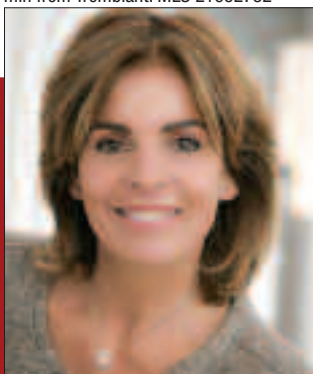
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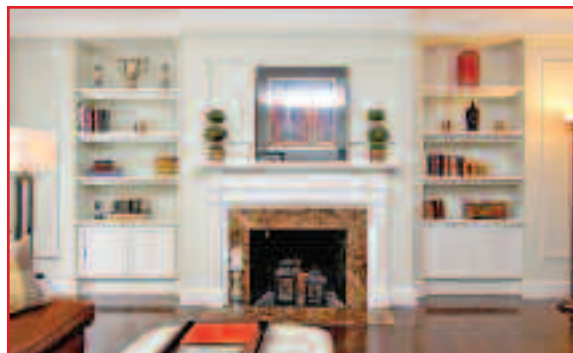


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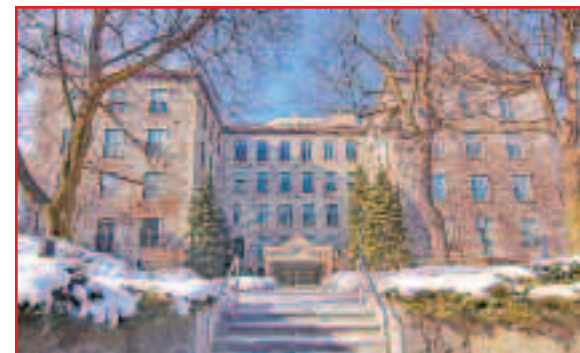
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