

Plan unveiled at Vic village meeting

Resident-only parking boosted to guard against possible MUHC influx

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A long-awaited parking plan for Victoria village was unveiled at a public meeting February 11, converting more than 30 current 2-hour parking spaces on Winchester, Burton and York to spots reserved for Westmount residents only.

These would be available to any car holding a red 24-hour parking sticker or a green 4-hour sticker but reduce the number of spots on those streets available to non-resident visitors, shoppers or people

working in the area.

The plan presented by Public Works traffic technician Jonathan Auger also calls for installing 24 parking meters on the west side of Claremont in current 2-hour spots. These are located in front of residential buildings that actually lie in NDG. They are intended for daytime use only.

Ten new parking spaces also are being created, most at corners (see map, p. 16.)

Pending feedback from the meeting attended by some 30 citizens – mostly residents of Victoria village – the changes are slated to *continued on p. 17*

Letters p. 6

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 18

Real estate mood BY A. DODGE p. 7

Fraternité Sacerdotale building sold



Father François Breton, the superior general of the Fraternité Sacerdotale, in front of 500 Claremont Ave. on January 15. Because of dwindling numbers, the congregation has sold the residence to real estate developer Brookline Developments, Breton said. See story, p. 8.

Photo: Joanne Penhale

Subject to referendum process

Trent asks Chagnon to speed up sound barrier study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is hopeful it won't be long now before overdue conclusions are received from the Quebec ministry of Transport (MTQ) on the feasibility study for a sound barrier along the Ville Marie expressway from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) to Weredale Park.

Mayor Peter Trent said last week he had called Westmount's provincial legislator

Jacques Chagnon February 6 about the delay, and he had "promised" to talk to the Transport minister, Robert Poëti, that night about the file.

"I put a flea in his ear to get it moving," Trent said.

The first part of the jointly funded study between the city and the MTQ was presented September 11 outlining options. The second and concluding part was to be due *continued on p. 13*

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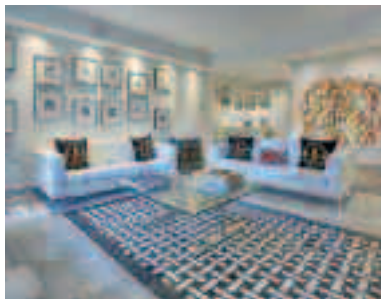
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Cold weather caused overloading of back-up circuits

Problem with old cable leaves many without power, some up to 12 hours

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

More than 400 Westmount homes in the west end were left without electricity – a few for more than 12 hours – February 9 when a domino effect resulted from a fault in a 1930 underground cable.

The cable is due to be replaced in the summer during the reconstruction of Prince Albert Ave., explained Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise (see story January 20, p. 7).

The subsequent overloading of back-up circuits due to the cold weather made efforts to balance the loads particularly “tricky,” he explained.

Heating up homes caused more problems

As soon as power was restored on a back-up circuit, people began heating up houses and causing more problems on those lines. Two other sectors were subsequently affected. Hardest hit were residents in a “core” sector between Victoria

and Grosvenor, Sherbrooke and Côte St. Antoine.

A CodeRed message was sent out at 4:30 pm to 128 homes to warn people in that affected core area they might not be connected until 8 or 9 pm, he said.

Callers to Public Security were directed to proceed to the library for warmth, said department director Greg McBain. None were known to have done so.

Started at 5 a.m.

Explaining the sequence of events, Hurtubise said the problem originated at 5 am when the Prince Albert cable short-circuited. This cut power to 209 client addresses around Prince Albert, Chesterfield, Windsor and St. George’s Place.

“Our protocol is that when a breaker trips, we transfer to back-up lines to restore power as soon as possible and then do the repairs later.” While most people had power restored by 8 am or 9 am, he said, “because it was very cold,” one of the back-

up cables experienced overloading.

As a result, at 11 am, 209 different customers lost power in two adjacent areas. One was on Côte St. Antoine near NDG; the other in the sector between Sherbrooke, Côte St. Antoine, Victoria and Grosvenor.

This meant that “we had to start a more complicated process to transfer to other back-up lines. By 4 pm, we were able to reconnect about half but were still stuck with the Victoria-Grosvenor section.

“At 6 pm, there were still 62 in that block that were not connected,” he said. As a result, a decision was made to divert from the protocol and repair the original problem.

At 9 pm, there were still 27 homes in the dark. All were finally reconnected by 12:30 am and repairs completed at 1 am.

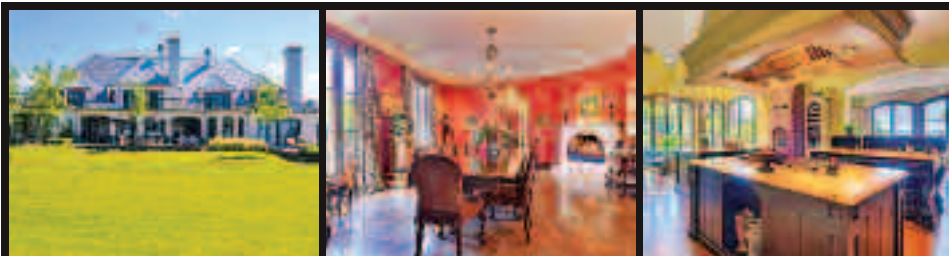
Fire destroys car in driveway

A car fire in a driveway February 5 near The Boulevard and Argyle caused the tires to pop sounding like an explosion, Public Security officials said. It was described as a write-off. When patrollers arrived, they found police and firefighters already on the scene. The call was received at 11:30 pm for a car alarm and possible explosion. Details were not immediately known.

Lansdowne building calls for emerg crews

Firefighters and public safety officers responded to a call for a water leak February 10 in the main entrance of the apartment building at 250 Lansdowne, Public Security officials said. The heat was turned off, and residents were told to inform the owner that a plumber was required.

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Meeting hears sound recordings

City expects MUHC noise mitigation report Thursday

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A progress report on possible solutions to noise emissions from the new super-hospital site at the Glen Yards is expected to be received by the city February 19, Councillor Christina Smith told the *Inde-*

pendent last week.

The news, she said, came at a meeting February 5 of close to four hours between the city, SNC-Lavalin project managers, acoustical engineers from Silentec hired by SNC and eight affected residents representing six homes, primarily on York St.

Two other citizens (representing the Westmount Municipal Association) not affected by the noise also attended. The meeting had been announced at city council February 2.

Since then, however, other residents in the area are reported to have wanted to attend but did not know about the meeting (see separate story, p. 5).

"We were guaranteed a progress report with plans on mitigation in two weeks," Smith said. "We'll have that reviewed by WSP Canada," the acoustical engineers hired by the city concerning the noise, which has generated many complaints from residents.

"I would like to think we're heading towards a solution," she added. "They seemed to indicate there was a way to mitigate the problem. We've really spent a lot of time on this. And again - we wait."

The meeting involved listening to 10 recordings taken by Silentec of various sounds and background noises, which those attending were asked to identify and write down answers. "Some residents, however, felt the reality had not been sufficiently captured," Smith said.

Usefulness unclear

"The relevance and importance of the meeting was not clear," explained York resident Marc Felgar, a participant. He said the recordings appeared to have been

taken at only two homes, both on his street. "It was quite absurd."

"When we asked ... if SNC would be willing to share Silentec's findings in the name of transparency, [the SNC representative] refused." She said meetings would take place between SNC and the Silentec engineers.

"When we asked if the city of Westmount could have its engineers attend those meetings to understand which problems had been identified and which solutions were contemplated, SNC refused once again, saying it would be impractical."

An issue of new noises was also reported to have been raised at the meeting along with concerns from an affected resident of the large Château Maisonneuve apartment block at de Maisonneuve and Claremont.

Last week, the city had still not heard back from either Montreal mayor Denis Coderre or the ministry of the Environment from a letter sent to them December 17 by Mayor Peter Trent asking for their intervention (see story January 13, p. 2).

Had surgery, needed more help

A Public Security patroller found an intoxicated man sitting on the sidewalk February 6 at 8:43 pm outside 4010 St. Catherine, department officials said. The man admitted to being in an advanced state of intoxication and showed them a cut on one hand for which he had recently had surgery. They transported him back to the Module du Nord, where he had been staying, and left him with a security guard at the Y residence on Tupper.

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Public or not?

Some noise-affected residents not invited to meeting

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When is a “public” meeting not a public meeting? This is a question being raised in the wake of a meeting February 5 on sound emissions from the super-hospital that few affected people seemed to know was taking place.

It remained unclear at press time Monday exactly who had had an opportunity to attend the session organized by the project consortium SNC-Lavalin-Groupe immobilier santé McGill (see story p. 4).

While the meeting and its venue had been announced at the city of Westmount’s council meeting February 2, a project spokesperson from SNC-Lavalin told the *Independent* the day before the February 5 meeting that there was to be “no public meeting.”

The spokesperson later stated, however, that 1,000 notices (dated January 7) had been sent to Westmounters living south of Sherbrooke, “in which you will see the invitation to the meeting.”

It contained no date or time for the meeting, however, noted participant Marc Felgar of York St. Rather, it asked anyone wanting to hear sound recordings to make

a reservation. Headed “Notice to residents and merchants,” the page-long document essentially explained the scheduling of the hospital’s ventilation systems for sound-reading purposes.

Of the eight affected residents from six homes who did attend the meeting, “none on York (the most affected location) received the notice, each having specifically stated so at the meeting,” Felgar said.

All, such as himself, had either been informed by email from SNC six days earlier or heard about it via word-of-mouth. “It was very odd. Nobody knew about the meeting until the email on very short notice.”

Only one resident of Sherbrooke and Lansdowne, John Fretz, not personally affected, reported receiving the notice, he said. “There was a pile of them in the lobby of my apartment building, so I took one and answered that I wanted to attend.” He then received an email with the date.

In an informal sampling of several residents on Prince Albert, Burton and Winchester by the *Independent*, no one was found to have received the notice.

“Public meetings are public meetings,” said Maureen Kiely, who attended from

The Boulevard out of interest and is an acting co-president of the Westmount Municipal Association. “What is the point of having a meeting with so few people able to attend? Its date should be well-publicized in ahead of time.”

She said she was disappointed so few people were present to hear the presentation.

By contrast, the two previous noise meetings held at city hall attracted numerous people who filled the council chamber, indicating a widespread concern and the public nature of the issue, she said.

Intoxicated, aggressive, bought more

Five intoxicated itinerants eventually “went on their way” after public safety officers found them consuming alcohol across from 4014 St. Catherine February 7 at 8:50 am, Public Security officials said. At least one became aggressive during a verbal altercation. While officers waited for backup, the group went into a dépanneur and bought more alcohol before leaving.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEATED SIDEWALKS? REALLY?

I'm glad to see citizens in Westmount are working hard to come up with ways to increase our already high property taxes, and it's wonderful how city council is receptive to all these great ideas.

Heated sidewalks? Give me a break. I can smell my tax dollars going up in smoke as city council starts to hire consultants to look at heated sidewalks "very seriously" and all because of the cost of salt.

Here's my suggestion: If salt is expensive, use less of it, stop degrading the environment and save taxpayers' money.

We live in a northern country, where it snows. There's supposed to be ice. If you don't like it, move south.

If the sidewalks are slippery, buy crampons. If your car is stuck in the snow, take the Metro or put those crampons on and walk.

There's always a cheaper solution, and certainly much cheaper than considering heated sidewalks and – ouch – installing, maintaining and paying to heat them for the next 100 or so years.

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

BOUCHARD GOES UNRECOGNIZED

The year of 2014 has slipped by and we are well into 2015. For our very own Eugenie Bouchard, 2014 was a special year. She captured the imagination of tennis fans throughout the world with her magnificent results, too many to mention here as anyone who reads about her knows.

Eugenie is arguably the finest athlete to ever come out of the city of Westmount, and that is saying a lot. The significance of her success all started here in Westmount on the local courts, and she continues to be recognized from Westmount in all her results and publicity.

What has our city done to show our respect and appreciation? Simply nothing.* If they did, no one heard about it.

I'm sure if anyone at the city reads this letter, they will say we tried. Well that is an easy out. You find a way.

RITCHIE BELL, LANSDOWNE AVE.
* Editor's note: For clarity, the city has invited Bouchard to an event, which as far as we know has not occurred. Please see Independent story "City to honour Bouchard with city hall reception," February 18, 2014, p. 7. – KM



One-wheeling it



A man on a unicycle makes his way west along Sherbrooke St. February 7 around 3 pm.
Photo: Ralph Thompson

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January sales: Low volume



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in January 2015. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

Only three single-family homes and one duplex in Westmount were sold in January, according to MLS data, the lowest volume since December 2013, but the list includes one sale over \$4 million and another over \$2 million, again reflecting the interest in many of Westmount's more expensive houses. The sale at \$4,450,000 involves a house evaluated over \$5 million, which had been on the market for more than two years.

The duplex also sold under valuation,

but still cleared \$1,200,000, while one row house on Lansdowne Ave. went for \$848,000, the lowest price of the month.

The average mark-up over valuation was only one percent, and the adjusted averages show the current level to be the lowest point since April last year, when the provincial election was held.

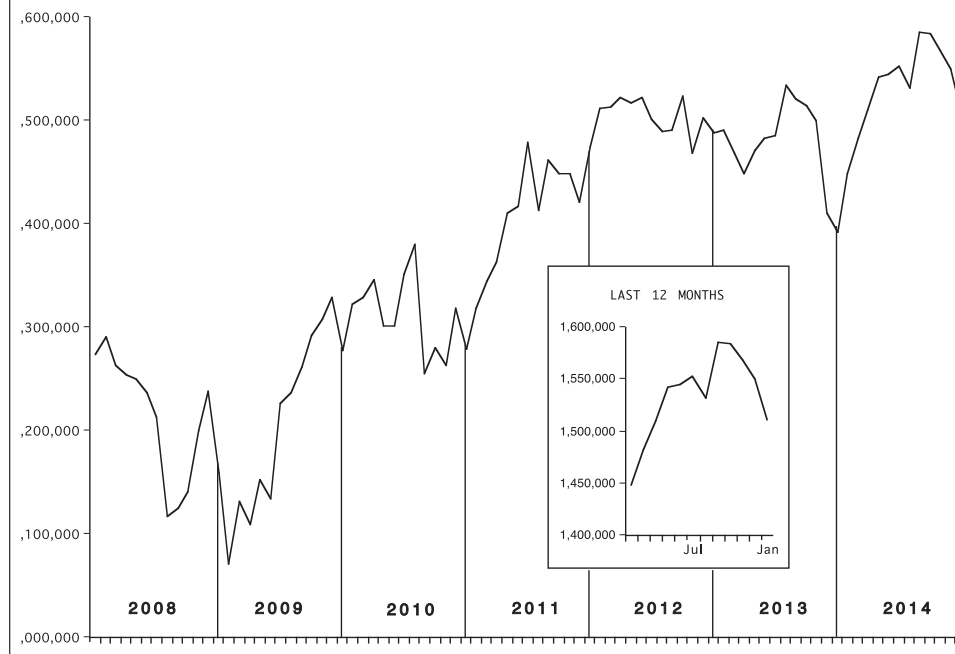
More interest in apartments

There was, perhaps, more interest in apartments, with three condominiums and three co-op apartments moving in January. One of the condos involved the under-construction building at 175 Metcalfe Ave., while another was one of the remaining unsold apartments at 1250 Greene Ave.

And certainly, for once, there was considerable interest in adjacent-Westmount properties, with two home sales in the Côte des Neiges area just north of the city, one just east of Westmount and one more in the Square Mile, though this was a newer townhouse on Redpath St.

Seven rentals were posted in January, including one house that will cost its tenants \$4,500 a month. Last year, 28 houses were continued on p. 8

Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month, January 2008 to January 2015, based on accepted offer dates



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Let there be rock.

Condo developer buys former home for priests and nuns

By JOANNE PENHALE

A chapter of Catholic history has closed for the five-storey residence at the corner of Claremont and Windsor avenues.

The property was sold to Brookline Developments, Father François Breton said, adding that the contract was signed January 13, after the building was on the market for about one year. “They will turn it into condos.”

In 1975, the Congrégation de la Fraternité Sacerdotale purchased the building and, until December of 2014, the all-male group used it as a residence for its members and others. The congregation sold the building to a real estate developer in mid-January.

“The number of priests was diminishing,” explained Breton. While just two years ago, the building had about 40 residents, he said, aging and ill priests have moved elsewhere. And as the vocation of priesthood is less popular, the residence has not had much demand from prospective residents.

Breton first lived in the building from 1980 until 1987 when he managed it. He then returned to 500 Claremont in 1993

when he was named superior general for the congregation. Breton was amongst the last residents of the building, who finally moved out in December 2014.

When the building was at its capacity of about 45 residents, Breton said, people were coming and going, and there were always activities going on. It was also a relaxing and peaceful environment for priests, he said.

“There was a lot of fraternity between the priests.

“We had a big balcony on the second floor, with rocking chairs,” Breton said. On summer days, residents would unite on this south side of the building and share stories, laugh together and learn from one another.

“It was very friendly,” he said. “People shared their experiences from different milieus.

“We welcomed priests from different dioceses and countries, and even religious orders,” Breton said. In addition to both active and retired priests, the building housed brothers, professors and students. The residents also included support staff, and the fifth storey of the building was reserved for nuns from the Oblates de Béthanie.

Several nuns lived in that highest storey, Breton said, overlooking the river.

The nuns, priests and other residents shared a chapel on the second floor. The first floor of the building included a kitchen and cafeteria, and the second, third and fourth floors included private living quarters.

The residence was known as Résidence Père Eugène Prévost after the founder of both Congrégation de la Fraternité Sacerdotale and Oblates de Béthanie.

Breton and others spent much of January emptying the building. The admin-

stration of the congregation, as well as some priests, are now housed in a rectory on Notre Dame St. in St. Henri, Breton said.

Previously, it was the Montreal Hebrew

Orphans’ Home and was also home to soldiers and troubled boys. See “500 Claremont Ave. boasts long list of philanthropic tenants,” January 14, 2014, p. 17.



Father François Breton in front of the Fraternité Sacerdotale building January 15.

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Real estate mood cont'd. from p. 7

rented for prices ranging from \$2,800 to \$13,500 per month, so this would be among the lower rents of last year.

As of this writing, there were 134 houses for sale in Westmount, 60 of them (45 percent) asking more than \$2 million, only 16 (12 percent) less than \$1 million. This is down from 150 listings in October, 72 of them over \$2 million, which might mean sellers are getting more realistic about the prices or that the big houses are moving and fewer new ones are coming on the market.

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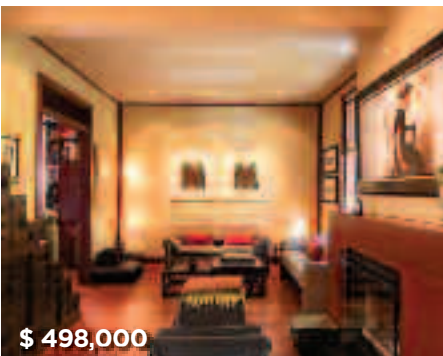
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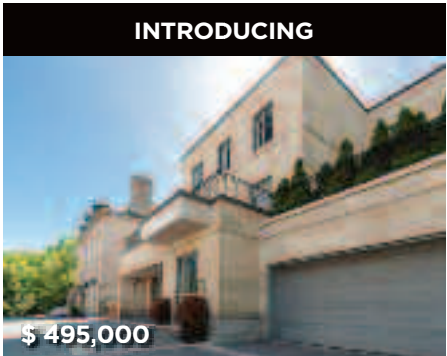
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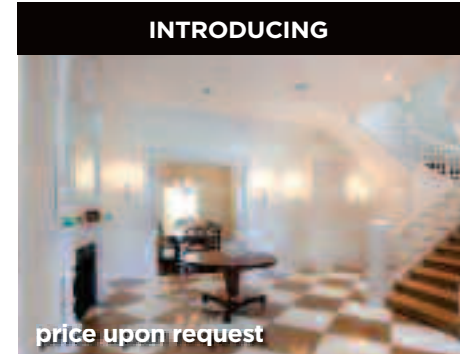
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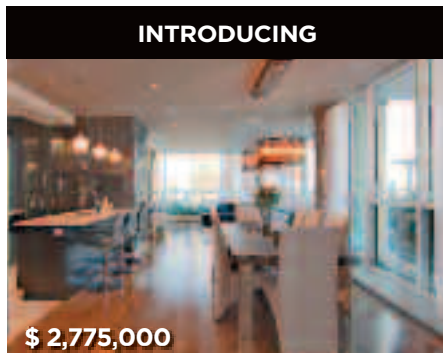
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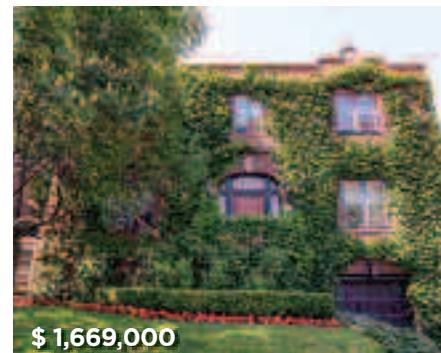
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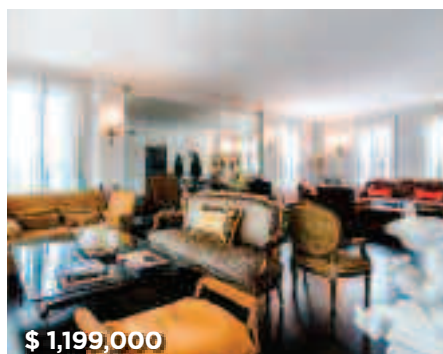
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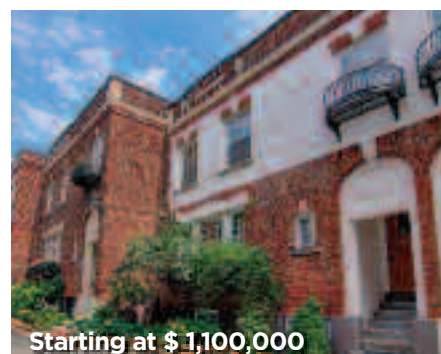
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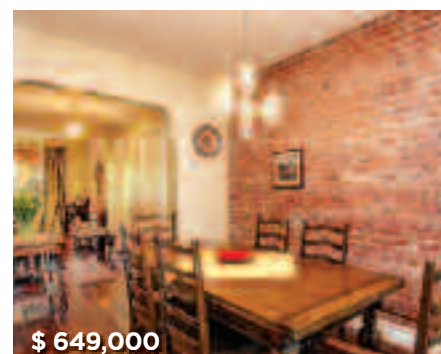
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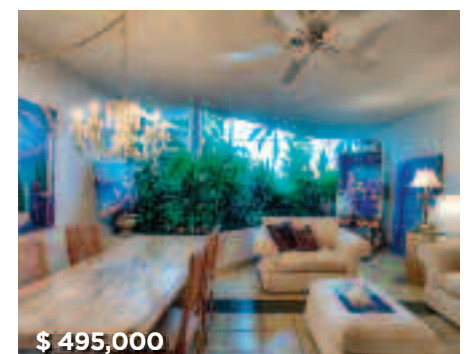
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Heating still an issue for some at 250 Kensington Ave.

MARTIN C. BARRY

A simmering dispute over heating remains unresolved between some tenants and the landlord at a Kensington Ave. apartment building.

When the *Independent* first reported on the situation at 250 Kensington nearly two years ago, some tenants at the time claimed they were satisfied with a resolution worked out with the building's owner, Trianon Properties.

But one tenant has now come forward to complain that heating inside some apartments as well as in hallways is still a problem.

"We're cold in the morning, and we're cold at night," said Nicole Gareau, a long-time resident, noting that the temperature in several apartments including her own often falls below 20 degrees celsius, when the minimum temperature prescribed by the Quebec rental board is 21 degrees. She said that those with apartments over the garage are especially affected.

In addition, claimed Gareau, caulking applied around the windows in several apartments including hers had no effect on the temperature. She said a city building inspector told the management that weather stripping should have been applied to the window and balcony doors, not caulking.

Joanne Wallace, president of the building tenants' association, told the *Independent* that Gareau's complaints are not unusual. "There are at least a dozen people in the building who have heating problems," she said, while conceding that there has been some improvement in the past two years.

In an interview, Francisca Moller, an administrator with Trianon Properties, insisted that the company monitors apart-



Nicole Gareau, a resident of 250 Kensington Ave., stands outside the building on January 18. She said heating issues remain unresolved by the owner.

ments and hallways in order to ensure that the temperature is 21 degrees celsius or higher. "Heating issues are always treated as an emergency by us," she said, while adding that maintenance of the building's heating system is handled by reputable sub-contractors.

Part of the problem for Trianon, Moller contended, is that some tenants aren't always immediately reporting their problems to management, but instead call the city, which notifies the company by registered letter of alleged infractions.

Christopher Rogers, chief building inspector for the city of Westmount, confirmed that his department has been responding to requests from tenants for inspections at 250 Kensington. "We've done some monitoring inside apartments

for temperature levels," he said.

"We haven't had any recent new complaints for heat," he added. While there were three such complaints since the beginning of the year, Rogers said there were other complaints regarding construction and renovation work carried out at the building without municipal permits.

\$76 ticket in QE park

A \$76 ticket was issued February 3 for a dog off-leash at 11:05 am in Queen Elizabeth park, Public Security officials said. A resident of St. Sulpice was fined for the offence.

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Sound barrier cont'd. from p. 1

within seven or eight weeks (see September 16, p. 1). This part is to present costs of the various scenarios.

Since then, 21 weeks have passed without news.

Both Trent and District 8 councillor Theodora Samiotis expressed frustration over the delay when asked by Prospect residents Frank Candido and Susan Scott Evans about the project and its timeline at the city council meeting February 2.

"It sounds like we still won't have a sound barrier three years from now, regardless of what comes out of the report," Candido said.

Not necessarily, Trent said. Once the city had the costs in hand, it would be in a position to make a decision. The project would have to be approved by both the city and the MTQ, and its cost subject to a referendum.

"Because it's a health issue, I can't understand why it would be subject to a referendum," asked Evans. The reason, replied Trent, is because a sound barrier, like other major capital works projects, would require a loan by-law.

When the city "polled" residents some years ago about a sound barrier, Trent re-

called, "The majority of people were against it in your area."

District 7 councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that over the 20 years she has been on council, circumstances regarding a sound barrier had evolved. Initially, she said, it was projected that a 26-foot-high concrete wall would be needed.

"Now there are more choices out there" with improved building materials. There have also been changes in the Quebec government and fluctuations in sound-level readings.

As well, now that final plans for the Turcot project call for lowering of the Ville Marie expressway through her district from Abbott to Blenheim Place, it means the sound barrier would not need to be extended west of the WAG.

Instead, a "living wall" of insulated wood and vines might suffice to mitigate some sound from the trains (see story February 3, p. 8).

The feasibility study is being conducted by the engineering firm of Dessau under contract from the MTQ but funded 50 percent by the city to the tune of some \$48,000.



Susan Scott Evans asks council why progress on a sound barrier is taking so long.

Police Report**House alarm thwarts break-in, sends suspect fleeing**

By MICHAEL MOORE

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

An unidentified individual attempting to break into the rear balcony door of a Lansdowne house on February 6 hastily fled the scene after unintentionally tripping the home alarm system.

The suspect reportedly trudged his way through the snow to the rear of the unoccupied house at approximately 7:50 pm, clambered up onto the balcony and tried to physically force open the back door. His break-in attempt was foiled when his efforts to wrench the door ajar tripped the house's alarm system, sending the suspect fleeing.

Alarm company called

The alarm company contacted police, who sent a squad car to the house. Once there, the officers discovered the suspect's footprints in the snow leading directly through a bush into a neighbour's yard, possibly signifying a hurried get-away attempt, according to Station 12 constable Stephan Laperrière.

Heavy snowfall like the city has witnessed in recent weeks can prove a boon to police in similar circumstances by helping to establish a direction of travel for the fleeing suspect, said Laperrière. Officers were able to follow the tracks until they reached de Maisonnette, where heavy foot traffic made it difficult to distinguish individual boot marks.

The Lansdowne incident came two days after a similar break-and-enter episode occurred on Kensington, when a suspect

climbed up onto a second-floor apartment balcony and successfully forced open the rear door. In the police report of the incident, the victim reported that nothing had been taken from the apartment.

Considering the close timeframe and similar *modus operandi*, police are considering the possibility that both incidents were perpetrated by the same person or people, according to Laperrière.

There are no witnesses or video surveillance footage available to police in either crime.

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February a popular month for high school science fairs



Angelina Kioussis, left, and Emanuel Brazil present their project at the 26th St. George's High School annual science fair February 5. They aimed to demonstrate a positive correlation between the scent of peppermint and the ability of subjects to score higher on a memory-based test. The science fair included students in grades 8, 9 and 11. Under science department head Jennifer Hunter, 120 students presented projects, with about 40 parent volunteers acting as judges, as well as grade 10 students.

Photo: Matt Faigan



Dr. Andrea Tone, right, a Westmounter who teaches medicine at McGill University, listens as Study students Tiffany Mach, left, and Catherine Boisvert, a Westmounter, explain their project during the school's annual science and math fair February 12. The two grade 11 students won a gold in the senior category with their project, which compared the efficacy of natural compounds such as Indian gooseberry and tannic acid to a new cancer drug known as BKM-120. They now go on to the Montreal Regional Science Fair in March along with six other student projects from The Study which also qualified.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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"Restoring award-winning house: 4274 Dorchester Blvd." presented by its owners Michael McAdoo and Theodora Samiotis at the Westmount Historical Association talk, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for members; \$5 for others. Info: Doreen Lindsay 514.932.6688.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Montreal Camera Club presents nature and wildlife photographer Steve Troletti on "From A to Z Photography," 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Info: Barbara Deans b.deans@sympatico.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

"Mystery Authors – The Dark Side 2," 7 pm at Victoria Hall with authors Robert Pobi, Andrew Pyper and Nick Cutter (aka Craig Davidson). Free tickets are available at the Westmount Public Library's main circulation desk.

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Cabot Square a focus at police-led meeting

BY MICHAEL MOORE

With the re-opening of Cabot Square scheduled for July, Westmount's Station 12 is enhancing its on-foot presence in the area to help ensure the safety of residents in and around the perennial police "hot spot."

"We can't have our head in the sand. We have to prepare ourselves to make sure the park is a very pleasant place for everybody," said community officer Adalbert Pimentel during an information session hosted by Station 12 on February 9 at the Westmount Public Library.

Approximately 20 residents and representatives of local community groups attended the meeting to discuss the station's plans in 2015. The 90-minute session featured a series of PowerPoint presentations by various Station 12 officers, including Commander Mathieu Bastien, followed by a Q&A period.

Most of the evening's discussion focused on "peaceful cohabitation" between all parties in Westmount, with Cabot Square's re-opening atop the priority list.

The square, which abuts the eastern edge of Westmount along Atwater, was closed for renovations last year, displacing

30 to 40 homeless people who had been living in the park full-time, according to Pimentel.

When it shut, those living in Cabot Square spread to surrounding areas in Westmount and downtown Montreal, but Station 12 is preparing for a migration back into the park once it reopens on July 1.

The station has introduced several initiatives in an attempt to help curb any issues in the area to reassure residents and merchants and help those in need seek the required aid. Among those initiatives is the introduction of an entirely on-foot two-man patrol team. The pair makes their daily rounds throughout Westmount, giving added attention to "hot spots" of criminal activity, including Cabot Square.

The increased face-to-face police presence has had promising results thus far, according to Pimentel.

"The only things we hear from people are good. Merchants, residents, people working in the sector, everybody has told us that they appreciate it," he said.

The station has also partnered with community groups such as the Open Door, passing out information flyers and offering lifts to homeless shelters. The station has

produced an introductory video featuring interviews with various homeless Inuit women to help bridge the communication and trust divide between police and indigenous people living in the area.

When asked about the possibility of installing video surveillance in Cabot Square, the station representatives replied that in addition to producing significant legal red tape, cameras don't always prove to be effective crime stoppers.

"Putting up a camera gives us a sense of power, [but] the results can be limited. Just

putting cameras up doesn't necessarily deter crime," said Lt. Jacques Meunier.

Instead, the advice of officers was solicited during the renovation planning phase to help use the park infrastructure to aid police.

"We told the city engineers, 'If you did this, it would prevent this type of crime. If you modified this, it would have an effect on this type of crime.' So with the city engineers we implemented things from a police perspective and they put it into a practical space," said Pimentel.



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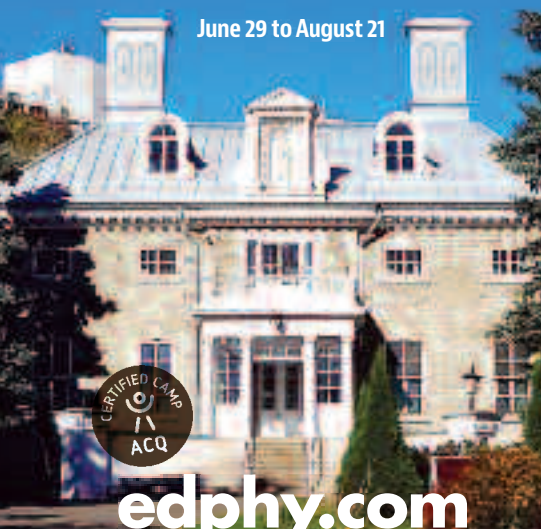

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Street-by-street parking changes to come in Vic village

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Parking changes presented by the city for Victoria village are confined to the area south of Sherbrooke bounded by St. Catherine, Claremont and Victoria. Current figures presented by the city do not include existing meters on Sherbrooke, de Maisonneuve or Victoria.

Ten new spaces have been created at corners, at least one per street.

Claremont: 24 new meters to be installed on the west side (Sherbrooke to Burton). The east side, where 11 reserved spots now exist, will gain one more. Eight residents hold parking permits.

Winchester: north side will have 11 reserved spots (civic number 17 to Claremont) and 6 general 2-hour spots (Prince Albert to civic number 17) for a total of 17, one more than the current situation. There is presently no reserved parking and no parking on the south side. 11 hold residents' permits.

Burton: north side, gains 1 spot for a total of 18 of which 11 are to be reserved (civic 31 to Prince Albert), and 7 will be general 2-hour spots from civic number 31 to Claremont. There is no parking on the south side, unchanged. 37 residents hold permits.

York: north side of Prince Albert to Victoria is to have 10 reserved spots with another 9 for general 2-hour parking between Prince Albert and St. Catherine. This is an increase for the street of one space. No parking is allowed on the south side, which is unchanged. 22 residents hold permits.

Prince Albert: (Sherbrooke to St. Catherine) will gain 4 parking spaces for a total of 61 despite the creation of its new public square. Of these 61, 32 on the east side will be reserved for permit holders (an increase of 2); all 29 on the west side will provide general 2-hour parking, an increase of 2. 25 residents hold permits.



Map showing proposed parking changes for Victoria village as distributed to those attending the public meeting February 11.

Image courtesy of Westmount Public Works

Somerville: gains 2 new spots for a total of 49, one on each side. On the north side, there will be 6 metered spaces (a gain of 2) and 20 general 2-hour spaces (a loss of 1) for a total of 26. On the south side will be 18 reserved spots and 2 metered spots (both unchanged) along with 3 two-hour spots (a gain of 1) for a total of 23. Forty five residents hold parking permits.

For main parking story, see p. 1.

Garage floods

A resident of the apartment building at 4500 de Maisonneuve at Melville called Public Security January 29 to report a water leak at 2:34 am. Public safety officers found water flowing down the west side of the garage resulting from a burst pipe. The pipe was not owned by the city but Public Works closed off the water. Only the garage and storage area were reported flooded.

Recycling bins impede snow clearing

Snow removal operations by Public Works were obstructed February 8 at 3:20 pm by five large recycling bins in a lane behind the apartment building at 4123 de Maisonneuve near Wood, Public Security officials said. The superintendent was finally contacted and managed to remove the bins by 6:20 pm.

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Parking cont'd. from p. 1

go into effect next month with the meters to follow later.

The plan is to be monitored and reassessed in six months.

"This is a good step for the preservation of our neighbourhood especially as we get closer and closer to the opening of the super-hospital," said District 5 Councillor Christina Smith.

And while most of those in the audience at the Westmount recreation centre appeared to agree with the emphasis on increasing parking for residents, for some it wasn't enough; others said the spaces should be specifically designated for residents of Victoria village rather than other Westmount residents visiting or shopping in the area or even visiting the super-hospital themselves.

A merchant said he was "shocked" at the loss of general parking and its impact on commercial viability.

But it was the metering of spots on the west side of Claremont that generated many comments. It was called "un-neigh-

bourly," a "public relations nightmare" and "a disaster in the making." Several people said they regularly parked there when unable to find parking on their own street. "Where will my plumber park?" asked another.

The meters will be programmable ones, however, said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security. They could be programmed to allow Westmounters to use the spaces without paying, he replied when asked.

After the meeting, Councillor Patrick Martin said that "since the residents were most concerned about metering Claremont – though from our observations they rarely park there in daytime – I'm suggesting that we postpone that proposal, especially since new meters will not be available for eight to 12 months in any case."

"There is no magic solution," to the parking challenges, explained Elisa Gaetano, assistant Public Works director. The proposed changes were intended to provide a balance to protect and increase parking for residents while preserving some spaces for general use to protect the commercial sector.

What they said

The following is a selection of quotations from the Victoria village parking meeting February 11:

Glen Grossman of Winchester: If meters are put on Claremont, "You're losing a lot of [unpaid] spaces. You're going to get calls from people saying, 'I can't find a space.'"

Greg McBain of Public Security: "We found a lot of non-permit holders parking on the streets."

Elisa Gaetano of Public Works: "It's significant how many [daytime parkers] don't have permits."

Denis Biro of Burton: "Councillor Cynthia Lulham has said blue stickers would be good" (allowing only residents of a specific area to park in reserved spots).

Suzanne Kell of Claremont: "I don't like looking at meters on a residential street."

Christina Smith (councillor): "If it were an easy issue, it would be solved ages ago... if it's not working out, we'll look at it again."

Gerard Fellerath, (resident/merchant): As a merchant, "We've been working to find one or two more parking spaces, and you're taking away over 30 from general 2-hour parking. This is impacting everybody."

Wanda Potrykus of York: Instead of parking meters for the west side of Claremont, "Make it 1-hour. At least it's available to me" and to residents of the apartment buildings on Claremont for loading and unloading their cars.

Kersti Biro of Burton: On enforcement of parking, "People get lots of tickets, but it doesn't help me find a space."



Saying he was "sensitive" to both sides of the parking issue as a resident of Somerville and owner of Folklore I, Gerard Fellerath speaks to the loss of more than 30 general 2-hour parking spaces during the meeting at the WRC multi-purpose room February 11.

"It's not an ideal solution," she said, but the best one at the current time. It will be monitored and assessed over six months at which time another meeting of residents could be held, she added.

Because the opening of the super-hospital is approaching in April, the parking plan has emphasized the residential need first, Auger said. Other plans for areas north of Sherbrooke and east of Victoria village would follow.

As a result, none of the figures included in the city's parking changes include the existing meters on Sherbrooke or Victoria. A total of 70, for example, are in use on both sides of Victoria from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

The types of parkers (various permit holders and non-permit holders) and times of their use on the streets in the area had been surveyed to determine the numbers of spaces that could be allocated to user groups of these streets, Auger said.

City figures presented show a total of 148 residents of the affected area hold

Westmount parking permits, of whom 108 require 24-hour on-street parking.

Currently 190 spots exist (six metered) of which 59 are reserved for residents and 125 are 2-hour spots that can be overridden by permit holders.

It is now proposed to have 200 parking spaces (32 metered) of which 94 will be reserved for residents and 74 will be 2-hour spots, which also can be used by permit holders for extended times.

The new parking measures result from recommendations contained in the CIMA+ study "to optimize parking in the southwest sector" commissioned by the city (see story September 10, 2013, p. 9) and "internal" recommendations by the city's Transportation Advisory Committee.

The city had distributed 400 notices of the recent meeting to residents and merchants in Victoria village.

Comments can be made to the city at traffic@westmount.org. The city is scheduled to approve the changes at the council meeting Monday, March 2.

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YAD hosts Brazil-themed fundraiser



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Early in the winter, Federation CJA's Young Adult Division (YAD) Montreal chapter turned the Montreal Science Centre into a rainforest for its Brazil-themed fundraiser in support of the Combined Jewish Appeal Campaign.

Celebrating its fourth year, the gala is a go-to event for young adults, who arrived attired in a carnival of colours appropriate to the night. The invitation suggested ladies to leave their LBDs (Little Black Dresses) at home for this exotic eve. And so they did! Brightly attired, 700 BYTs (Beautiful Young Things) danced 'til dawn, enjoying the open bar with Belvedere vodka-laced Caipiroska, delicious stations from Paradise Kosher and Sprinklz frozen yogurt.

Amazing entertainment was energetic, befitting a Rio Carnevale. The evening featured live performances from Equipe



Evan, left, and Ross Paperman.

Capoeira Brasileira, Chicaboom Entertainment and singer-songwriter Lukay.

Sponsors were Sting Ray and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, among many others.

The gala team comprised hard workers **Karen Aflalo**, chair 2014 YAD Campaign; **Steve Sebag**, chair 2013 YAD Campaign; **Ron Nessim**, YAD Brazil Co-Chair with



From left: Steve Sebag, Ron Nessim, Emily Deane, Karen Aflalo, Meghan Weinstein, Michael Nehemia, Valerie Abitbol and Elana Minz.



From left: Eliran and Jacqueline Mazor, and Nicole Amiel.



Taryn, left, and Mike Nehamia.



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Emily Deane, DJ **Yossi Ohana** and **Michael Nehemia**; YAD development officers **Meghan Weinstein** and **Elana Minz**; and **Valerie Abitbol**, director YAD Montreal.

Westmounters noted enjoying the eve included **Evan Paperman**, **Jacqueline** and **Eliran Mazor**, and **Nicole Amiel**, as well as **Ross Paperman** and **Taryn and Mike Nehemia**.

Proceeds from the YAD gala support the 2014 Combined Jewish Appeal Campaign of Federation CJA, providing relief to the community's most vulnerable members, while supporting initiatives that contribute to a more vibrant Montreal Jewish community. Federation CJA works to improve

the lives of the 17,000 Jewish Montrealers living below the poverty line.

Bellevue closed off for 'hung-up' truck

A long double-section delivery truck became "hung up" on a concrete ledge or small retaining wall at a sharp turn on Bellevue February 10, Public Security officials said. It took "multiple attempts" for a tow truck to free the train-type vehicle. Bellevue was closed off for close to two hours until 12:33 pm. The mishap occurred half way up the hill on the north side.



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