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ARTS & LIFE
Reich pens a delightful
family memoir
Page 8

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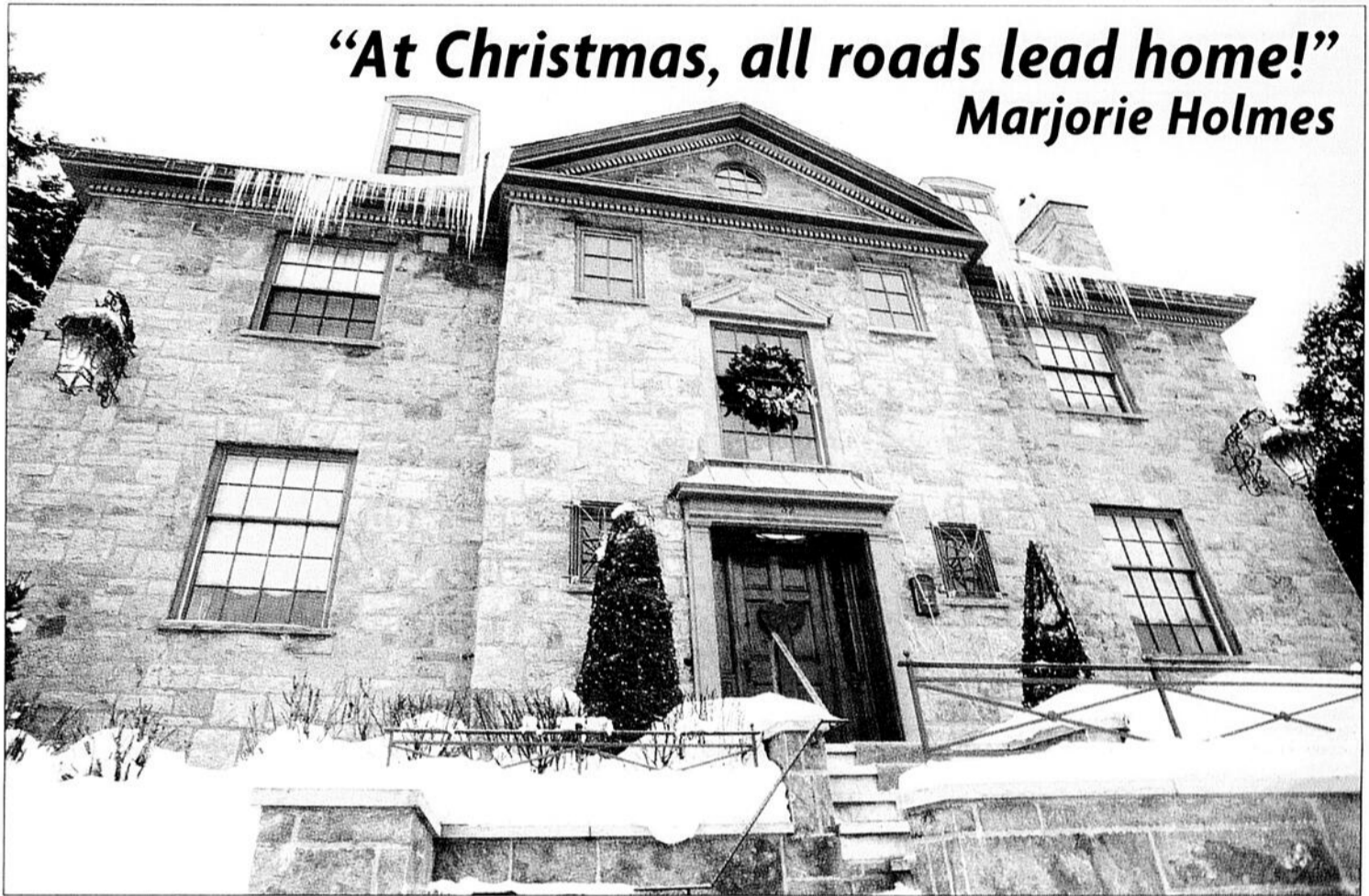
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**“At Christmas, all roads lead home!”
Marjorie Holmes**

A beautiful Westmount home ready for the holidays. Photo: Jacques Pharand

Belt-tightening budget calls for slight tax increases

Hourly parking meter rate rises 100%

Wayne Larsen

Local property owners can expect an average 2.16 per cent increase in their January tax bill, while motorists will be paying double to park at a Westmount meter in the new year.

These were two of several “belt-tightening” measures to be shouldered by Westmounters, according to the City’s 2011 operating budget unveiled by Finance

Commissioner Tim Price Monday evening at city hall.

Price announced that he had not purchased new shoes for the occasion — a reflection of the cautious nature of the 2011 budget.

“If we don’t need to spend money, we won’t,” he said.

Describing it as “a tough budget,” Price announced that total spending in 2011 has been set at \$89.83 million, up from last year’s \$86.28 million. But in order to meet that

figure in revenue without reducing municipal services, several administrative costs had to be reduced — including a \$30,000 cut to the Westmount Public Library.

Price pointed out that the upcoming \$36 million arena/pool reconstruction project — Westmount’s largest-ever expenditure — was largely excluded from the current budget because it “should not impact the operating budget to any significant extent during 2011.”

Continued on page 14

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City won't budge on Glen access road

We won't be the fall guy for MUHC's faulty planning: Trent



The single-lane Glen access road has been locked since it was built last year. The City of Montreal and the MUHC want it opened to ease traffic in NDG. Photo: Wayne Larsen

Wayne Larsen

Westmount is standing firm against the City of Montreal and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) over recent calls to open Westmount's Glen Road access route to the MUHC hospital construction site — a move Montreal officials say would ease traffic in NDG.

The issue has become so contentious that Mayor Michael Applebaum of the NDG-CDN borough is reported to have asked the Quebec government for permission to annex the Westmount portion of the Glen Yards, which would then allow the MUHC to open the single-lane access route for construction workers' vehicles.

"Let's share," was Applebaum's appeal to Westmounters during a CBC radio interview last Friday. He emphasized that since the access road is so close to St. Jacques Street, there would be no inconvenience to Westmount residents whatsoever.

Applebaum also pointed out that construction of the MUHC hospital, which is now well underway, is generating a considerable increase in traffic congestion around the site's existing access point in NDG, with

no traffic increases in Westmount — even though Westmounters will benefit every bit as much from the new hospital as residents of NDG.

But Mayor Peter Trent says the MUHC planners should have foreseen this problem five years ago, when the City of Montreal approved the current zoning of the Glen access road as an emergency exit only.

He also scoffed at the idea of Westmount property being seized by the government.

"I don't think annexation is the solution to problem resolution — I don't think they're really serious about that," Trent responded to Applebaum's plea during the same radio interview. "Quebec has no stomach for annexation these days. After going through the whole saga of merger-demerger, they're not in any mood for

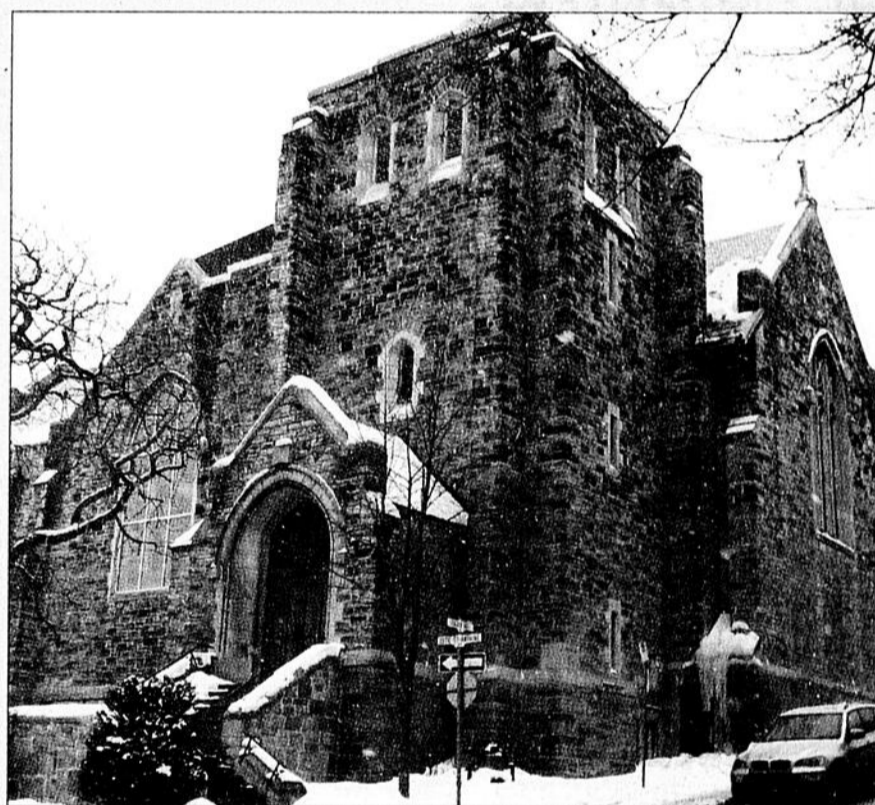
that... The MUHC did not plan properly, and now we're supposed to be the fall guy for the lack of planning on the part of the MUHC and the City of Montreal."

Trent explained that even if Westmount city council agreed to change the zoning in order to allow the Glen access road to open, the ultimate decision would be up to residents — many of whom have already expressed serious concerns over current and future traffic increases in the area, espe-

cially on Lansdowne Avenue, which turns into Glen Road below Ste. Catherine Street. A petition calling for City vigilance against traffic increases was recently circulated among residents in the lower Lansdowne area and presented to city council.

Any zoning change would have to be decided by a referendum, Trent said, and judging by the serious traffic concerns expressed by those living in the area, that referendum could fail.

St. Matthias Christmas events



St. Matthias' Anglican Church at 131 Cote St. Antoine Rd., corner Metcalfe, will be holding their Christmas Eve Children's Pageant on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. and their Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 10 p.m. Christmas Day Choral Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m.



Notaries

Durso & Younanian

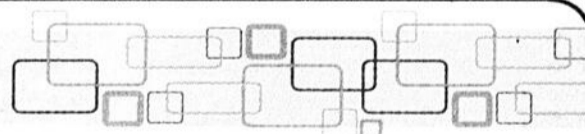
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OPINION

Westmount to NDG: Annexation? Yeah, right...



Toulou
FOSCOLOS
toulou.foscolos@transcontinental.ca
TOULOU'S 'TAKE'

The Glen access road dispute between the City of Westmount and the borough of CDN/NDG is starting to escalate as the latter is threatening to annex part of Westmount in order to open the access road and reduce the inconveniences being shouldered only by CDN/NDG residents at the moment.

In a recent interview on CBC's Daybreak, CDN/NDG mayor Michael Applebaum and Westmount's mayor Peter Trent each took turns outlining their reasons for the frustration they are feeling and the positions they're defending. Applebaum explained that 1,400 construction workers currently use NDG streets to get to the northern tip of Westmount where most of the work is taking place.

"We're very serious about the threat to annex," Applebaum said, as Trent chuckled in a clearly condescending way over the airwaves.

Thing is... Trent has every right to be smirking. The likelihood of the City of Montreal attempting to forcibly annex part of the de-merged City of Westmount, and willing to live with the backlash that would most certainly arise from it, is every bit as likely as the public's concerns over unethical conduct in government coming to a complete halt in the New Year. Translation? It's not going to happen. Annexing is a threat, but an empty one. The provincial government has indicated no real interest whatsoever in resolving this issue by such means.

Mayor Trent is right when he claims that the City of Montreal approved and zoned the Glen access road as an emergency exit and five years later they can't just suddenly realize they made a mistake and expect Westmount to bow down to pressure and undo the zoning changes. He's also correct in assuming that, since Westmount bylaws stipulate that any zoning changes require residents' approval, such an attempt would be "an exercise in futility." It's well known that residents have already expressed serious concerns over current and future traffic increases in the area, especially on Lansdowne Avenue, which turns into Glen Road below Ste. Catherine Street. It's highly unlikely that they would suddenly find it in their hearts to take pity on NDG residents and allow for additional traffic on their streets.

In political non-speak, Trent is merely shrugging his shoulders and basically telling the CDN/NDG borough "Too bad, so sad. You guys [the City of Montreal]

made the dumb move years ago, now you're stuck with it and I intend to do nothing to change that, unless I am legally forced to do so." Trent also made certain to reassure Daybreak listeners that he finds mayor Applebaum to be a "very nice man", just in case any of us were worried this was getting a little too personal.

Since Trent has to answer to Westmount residents, and with the area around the Glen road having its own traffic congestion problems, it's understandable that he wants to absolve himself of any responsibility in the issue and maintain the status quo that protects Westmount from any of the inconveniences, yet will still allow the City to benefit from a brand new super-hospital right at its door. It's a bit of a 'damned if you, and damned if you don't' kind of scenario and it will be interesting to see how it plays out in the New Year.



In the meantime, dear readers, let's all take a break from municipal politics for a moment and enjoy the season and each

other. On behalf of everyone here at The Westmount Examiner, Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones.

Ten ways to stay green during the holidays



Nat
LAUZON
Natterings
n.lauzon@virginradio.ca

While back, at a climate change conference in Germany, Al Gore said that in a few short years the only ice caps we'll have left will be at Tim Hortons. I'm paraphrasing. But I think you catch my polar drift.

And here we are smack dab in the middle of the most gluttonous season of them all. Overeating, overdrinking, overspending, overpackaging - are you over it yet? It feels like the holidays are really a time of excess and waste. Maybe we can at least make a resolution to be more enviro-conscious next holiday season. Here are 10 'green' tips you might want to tuck in your back pocket:

1. The tree: I know nothing quite compares to a real tree, but at the rate we're destroying our green spaces, we need to keep those suckers firmly planted. Instead of cutting one down, designate an outdoor

tree as your Christmas tree. Decorate it, take photos of it, sing carols around it. Then explain to the neighbours what you're doing on their front lawn.

2. Wrapping paper: It's wasteful to wrap presents year after year. Think of alternatives to using all of that decorated paper. I suggest painting gifts. To really create intrigue, use a glue gun to add glitter and feathers. Important: Let paint dry completely. "Unwrapping" takes a phenomenally long time, drawing out the pleasure of Christmas and that special time you spend together.

3. Batteries: When disposed of improperly, batteries can leach harmful chemicals into the earth. Try to avoid toys that require batteries. How about good ol' fashioned Lego? Plus, nothing beats the entertainment value in watching unsuspecting visitors step on the pieces in their sock feet.

4. Cards: Don't add to paper waste by sending real cards - send e-cards! Everyone knows you're a cheap SOB anyway, so just own it.

5. Conserve heat: Close the curtains. Insulate your windows with plastic. Invite yourself over to the neighbours' where it's warmer.

6. Snow removal: Snow blowers are great, but do you really want to waste that gas? Studies that I made up have shown that a kid with a Red Bull and a shovel can produce comparable results.

7. Dinnerware: Entertaining? Use glass plates and dishes instead of disposable ones. Ask your friends to bring over dishes if you don't have enough. Send the dishes back with them. Do not wash first. Y'know... water conservation.

8. New Year's party favours: Why overspend and buy so much stuff for one night? Instead of noisemakers, screaming is free (and easy!). Party hats can be replaced with Burger King crowns.

9. Food: Select seasonal, local produce. Mmm, snow.

10. Cleaning up: Clean up after a party using non-toxic cleaners. A fire hose works well.

And, a bonus tip for all the holiday Grinches - when stealing Christmas, please use recyclable bags!

Nat Lauzon can be heard weekdays from 9-1 on Virgin Radio and wishes you a safe and happy and environmentally friendly holiday season.

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RBC wraps for Children's Hospital



Marilynn Vanderstaay
Around Westmount

The employees of the Royal Bank's Westmount Square branch were sharing the holiday cheer earlier this month, donating their time to wrap presents at Alexis Nihon Plaza during two of the busiest shopping days of the year.

This fundraising activity was carried out on Wednesday, Dec. 8 and Friday, Dec 10. The Royal Bank employees spent a few hours each wrapping presents and collecting donations from customers. The proceeds from this annual community fundraising initiative went to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. This is part of RBC's ongoing commitment to be socially responsible in local communities.

Westmounters help Mexicans through Casa Romero

Bravo to Claudia Bierman, Will Graham and Janet Boeckh, who are making a difference in the lives of indigenous Mexicans in the Cuernavaca area through practical projects in which our community can easily participate.

Working with a local organization in

Mexico, the volunteers help local artisans sell their hand-painted signed objects, including colourful trays, boxes, balls, Christmas tree ornaments, platters, place-mats, and more.

"They make unique, thoughtful and fairly-traded gifts," said Boeckh.

Most items sell for under \$10 and can be purchased in Dix Mille Villages in Pointe Claire. But you can also purchase them directly from Boeckh by emailing her at janetb@bellnet.ca To see the wide range of handcrafted items go to www.casaromero.org

There's still time to sign Richler petition

The Atwater Library recently collected hundreds of signatures on a petition calling on the City of Montreal to recognize Mordecai Richler's contributions by naming a street, building or public place after him.

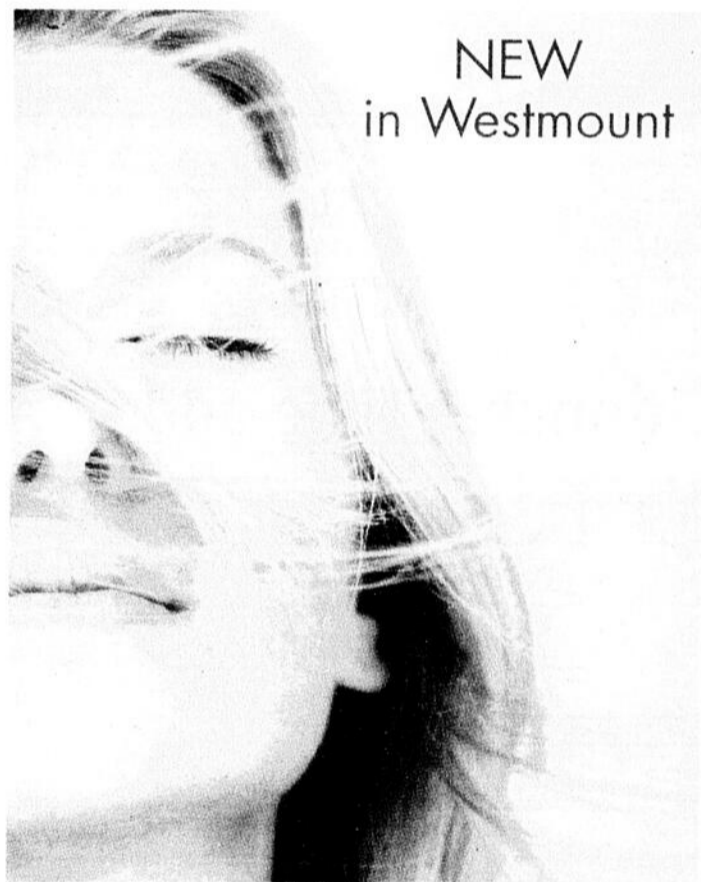
"We've mailed the signatures to Montreal Councillor Marvin Rotrand, one of the initiators of the petition who, along with Côte-des-Neiges - NDG Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum, will be tabling the petition at the December City Council meeting," said the Atwater Library's executive director, Lynn Verge. Councillor Rotrand says there's still time to add your name online at www.gopetition.com/petition/40303.html



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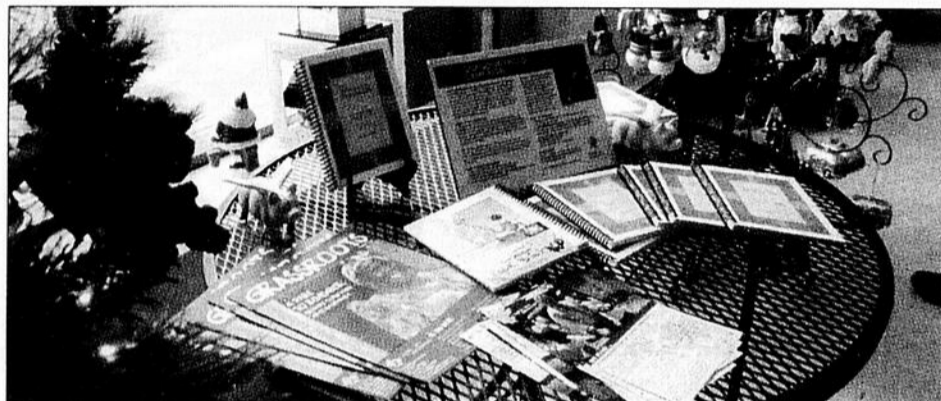
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Great stocking stuffer, great cause



Nina Minde, an active member of the West Hill Grandmothers, along with Margaret Kamester, Sheila Denton, and Louise Hegenbarth have compiled, designed, and produced a wonderful cookbook of recipes submitted by the group after their fund raising lunches for The Stephen Lewis Foundation. The cookbook is displayed and on sale at Hogg's Hardware, who have kindly donated space during the festive season. This cookbook makes a great stocking stuffer or gift for the person on your list who has everything.

RBC donates time and money



Recently, the Westmount Square branch employees of the Royal Bank raised close to \$1000 through the donation of their time, matching bank donation, and gift wrapping presents at Alexis Nihon Plaza...all for the benefit of the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. Those donating their gift wrapping skills included (photo from left) Jason Christiano, RBC branch manager and employees Jeremy Moore, Farzana Jabbar and Marcela Fargas. This is part of RBC's ongoing commitment to be socially responsible in local communities. For additional information please contact: Jason Christiano Branch Manager 514-874-6526



Chou Chou

Johnny Graziano of Chou Chou would like to wish you a happy holiday season and prosperous new year. He also invites you to stop in for their huge Boxing Week Special. They are offering 50% off on all merchandise, plus they are paying the taxes. 4886 Sherbrooke W or Rockland Shopping Centre.

Baby specialty items and clothing drive in Westmount



Foundation School teamed up with MADA Community Center to collect and distribute baby items to young Jewish Montreal families in need. Renee Baltuch, event coordinator, said "it was extremely successful. We collected lots of baby items and it felt good to help others in need. We hope to do it again in the spring." Foundation school is part of the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, founded in 1846, is Canada's oldest and largest traditional synagogue. MADA Community Center, the largest kosher soup kitchen and food bank in Quebec is strategically located in the heart of Montreal's community. It provides many social and crisis services and basic necessities to those in need. All of MADA's services are free of charge. They therefore rely on public support to maintain their services. www.madacenter.com

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Annual Art at Home Show offers an intriguing mix of art... and artists

Carmen Marie Fabio

The unlikely marriage of a messy chunk of black charcoal and the slippery seductive surface of Mylar produced lines and smudges which perfectly captured the essence of a single sheer black glove.

"The charcoal dances across the surface," said artist Jennifer Goddard, of the triptych devoted to the memory of her grandmother Edith Creelman, the glove's owner.

"She was a tiny Scottish woman with a big personality," said Goddard describing how her grandmother allowed poet Langston Hughes, who was black, to stay at her Westmount home when no hotel in Montreal would allow him in. Goddard's artwork portraying various examples of her grandmother's many gloves is part of the display at Flora-Lee Wagner's open house art exhibit at her Claremont Avenue home.

Though likely not intentional, the annual event was characterized by juxtapositions both in the artwork and the artists themselves.



A soft pastel palette is not usually what the mind's eye conjures up when thinking of horses but in artist Bruce Roberts' hand, it works magically. Pairing the colour scheme with a few quick dark brush contours, Roberts effortlessly captures both the majestic equine movement and poise in the same stroke.

"It's both easy and difficult," said Roberts of the creative process that produced the large acrylic piece. An accompanying display of Roberts' quick sketches

showcases his ability to capture movement and character on a static page. Pigeons have never looked so good.

Self-taught artist Wayne Larsen doesn't let details like not graduating from a formal art education program stop him from producing stunning landscapes which portray the quiet and sometimes foreboding areas of rural Quebec.

"I grew up in the country so that's what I relate to," he said. Besides painting, Larsen is also the author of bestselling books on

Group of Seven member A.Y. Jackson and artist Tom Thomson. The fact that Larsen doesn't bother painting with anything as trivial as a paintbrush is further evidence that this art show defies convention.

Former fashion illustrator Sheryl Constantine abandons the traditional portrayal of haute-couture models by exaggerating certain physical features. While the elements of fashion design are present, the fascinating, and sometimes disturbing distortions of bodily proportions leave the viewer questioning what, exactly, is contained within the frame... and what isn't.

Not limited to two-dimensions, Wagner's show included Chris Oosenbrug's exquisite wood turned bowls, made from an array of woods including cherry, walnut, oak, and mahogany.

This is Wagner's fourth time hosting this event which includes her own artwork illustrating her recent trip to Newfoundland. Subtle waves and misty seascapes are displayed alongside an eerie skyline stippled in grey and yellow, which Roberts described as an 'optimistic cityscape'.

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Reich pens a delightful family memoir

Immigrant experience is told with warmth and humour

Wayne Larsen

Friends of noted architect David Reich know him as both a serious professional and a man guided by a sharp sense of humour — so much so that it was just a matter of time before he succumbed to the temptation of writing his own story.

The result, recently published as 'You Could Lose an Eye,' is a bright, quirky memoir that lives up to the promise of its title.

From the oppression of early 20th-century Galicia through the struggles in a new land to the decidedly sunnier heights of Summit Crescent — where Reich has now resided for many years — 'You Could Lose an Eye' traces the author's family's history without glossing over any of the tragic elements so closely associated with the European Jewish experience.

The immigrant family's establishment in Montreal, solidified by the 1927 birth of "ten pounds of solid flesh," as Reich describes himself, provides the bulk of material for what turns out to be a charming autobiography filled with warmth and heaping helpings of humour.

Reich's personality fills every page, even when he writes about the colourful cast of characters to be found in the branches of his family tree. He takes great pleasure in reciting the anecdotes handed down by his parents, and those surrounding the Reich Brothers store and its various employees. From Uncle Harold, a gifted musician who could never stay awake during the day and could be found slumbering in the most inopportune spots, to Uncle Yosef, a.k.a The Flying Mohel, Reich adroitly mines each character and situation for their full potential of quirky, comedic possibilities.

There is currently no shortage of books on the immigrant experience; countless Canadians have been inspired to set their own dramatic — sometimes even heroic — family history into words, in most cases prompted by easy access to a computer. But it seems doubtful that many have done it with the unique combination of grace and self-effacing humour that drives David Reich's inspired memoir.

'You Could Lose an Eye: My First 80 Years in Montreal' by David Reich is published by Baraka Books (www.barakabooks.com) and is currently available in most bookstores.

YOU COULD LOSE AN EYE

My first 80 years in Montreal



To celebrate the Holiday Season, we wish you to **realize** all your dreams, **big** and small.

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Renaud launches latest book at Babar en Ville

Author Anne Renaud describes the Empress of Ireland, which sunk in the St. Lawrence River in 1914, during the launch of her new book on the subject at Babar en Ville last Saturday afternoon. "Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland" (Dundurn Press) tells the story of the ill-fated ship and its passengers in a way that brings history alive for young readers.

Photo: Justine Cotton

Season's Greetings

Bah! Humbug! The top four holiday spoilers

It's that time of year when there's too much of some things, like shopping, partying, eating and working, and too little of others, namely sunshine and sleep. Don't let the hustle and bustle of the holiday season take its toll on your mood, waistline, and ability to feel good overall. With an attitude of cheer and goodwill towards yourself, you can take charge of the next few weeks without succumbing to frustration, fat, and fatigue. Here are some tips to manage the top four holiday spoilers:

Dreaming of a white Christmas or just a good night's sleep? Start by getting rid of the stimulants. Reducing excess sugar in your diet can help balance blood sugars and lessen the annoying habit of waking up in the middle of the night. Also, cut back on caffeine and alcohol. To relax before bed, read, journal, or listen to light music to help calm the mind and the body.

Not feeling much "ho, ho, ho" but more like "heave-ho"? Rushed deadlines prior to the holidays, social obligations, and credit-card overuse can make the holiday season more dreaded than desired. Try to work more efficiently—focus on the immediate work tasks at hand and keep the socializing for the office party. Keep your finances in check by staying on budget. New Year glee can be quickly dimmed by the arrival of credit card statements. If you need help managing stress-filled days and concentrating on what needs to be done, you might want to try natural supplements containing a plethora of nutrients (lemon balm, ashwagandha, 5-HTP, rhodiola, and l-theanine) to help your mind and body manage stress and its related mental and physical symptoms.

Continued on page 12

SEASON'S GREETINGS

David Estephan and everyone at Westmount Auto wishes all their customers and friends a Very Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

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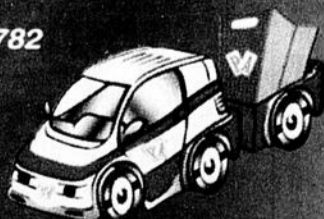
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Only two more weeks left to catch Otto Dix at the MMFA

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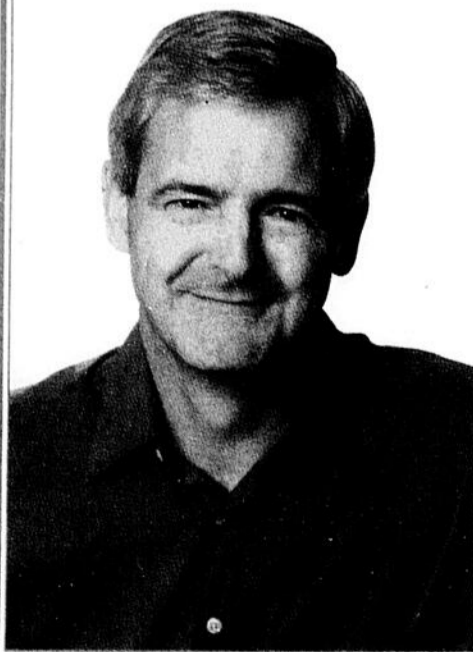


There are only two weeks left to see the exhibition Rouge Cabaret: The Terrifying and Beautiful World of Otto Dix, which closes on January 2, 2011. Originally presented at the Neue Galerie New York in a slightly different format, it was recognized as

one of the best exhibitions of the year during an awards ceremony at the Guggenheim Museum, New York. This gripping presentation of 220 works illustrates the interwar period in Germany through the eyes of one of the greatest painters of the period.

**Best Wishes from Marc Garneau
 Member of Parliament
 Westmount Ville-Marie**

*Let us all share in the spirit of
 peace and hope this holiday season.*



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 et une bonne et heureuse année!
 Wishing you a Merry Christmas
 and a Happy New Year!*



Jacques Chagnon

Député / M.N.A Westmount-Saint-Louis
 Vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale

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C'est dans l'esprit des fêtes que nous tenons à remercier tous ceux et celles qui nous ont appuyés durant l'année. Dr Vaillancourt et son équipe vous souhaitent de très joyeuses Fêtes et une Bonne et Heureuse Année!

This is the season to thank everyone who supported us during the year. Dr Vaillancourt and his team extend their very best wishes to you during this holiday season!

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Continued from page 9

Finding it hard to look on the sunny side of life? Lack of sunshine and bleak, grey skies can affect people emotionally. Make sure to get out and enjoy the sun when it is shining. For those of you who suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder), phototherapy is something worth considering. And don't forget about supplementing your diet with vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin. This important nutrient influences key biological functions and is vital to one's good health.

Visions of sugar plums tantalizing your appetite? Buffet spreads, special holiday treats, and making merry with friends and fine wines usually go hand-in-hand with a tightening waistband. Remember, it's all about pacing and being aware of what you are consuming and how much. Bite off only

what you can chew—slowly—and try to make an effort not to overindulge. When the luncheon festivities come around, reach first for the nutrient-filled foods, the veggies that provide the essential vitamins and minerals to keep your body engine running well to tackle the forces of this holiday season.

So, whether your holiday season means non-stop friends, family and food, remorseful shopping, or insanely compressed work timelines, don't let those few weeks of fervent intensity and good cheer trigger a host of ill-wellness towards yourself. You can do it all in a healthy perspective.

Happy holidays and wellness wishes to you and yours!

Michele Sevier DNM, DAC, is an educator and advocate of natural health and healing.

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Minding my Ps and Qs

Is technology eroding our fundamental values?

Robert N. Wilkins

We've come a long way from the days when I was told as a small child to mind my Ps and Qs. My late parents usually gave me this spontaneous advice whenever we all unexpectedly found ourselves in the company of other family members — more often than not, the much older ones.

Of course, it was customary at the time for fathers and mothers to counsel their

The recent gang rape of a 16-year-old girl in Pitt Meadows, B.C. (just east of Vancouver), and the rapid up-loading of a video of the foul deed to several social media sites clearly and dramatically illustrate the two deficiencies in question.

For most typical mortals, witnessing a crime is not an experience that one would normally wish to protract. Normally, an unfortunate observer would just happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In the Vancouver case, however, many youngsters simply stood around watching the multiple sexual assaults, while others dispassionately filmed the offense, then methodically uploaded it to the Internet. Such dreadful behaviour is at best voyeurism and at worst, breathtakingly criminal.

Incredibly, and also somewhat ironically, these same habitually chatty, rave-crazed youths are now mute and uncooperative with the authorities — a kind of perverted code of silence, the Vancouver police call it.

Problem prevails across the country

Meanwhile, at the other end of this vast country, here in Montreal, David Abitbol's profile photo (the only one available to those of us who are not his Facebook 'friend') is of assault weapons. In addition, at the time of his arrest by city police this fall, his social network page described his favourite quotation as being "Death is the only solution."

Do Abitbol and his clearly over-protective parents not remember Kimveer Gill and Dawson College in 2006? Have they not heard of the 1989 atrocity at the Polytechnique? Would they have expected the authorities (who had clearly stumbled upon Abitbol's Facebook page, complete with its explicit threats) just to linger around to see if he were serious?

In the meantime, a friend describes David Darkiller's (Abitbol's Facebook pseudonym) only fault as "always exaggerating and kidding around" — in short, forever speaking to the gallery.

During the course of a 35-year high school teaching career in this city, I heard many a teen graphically threaten others — both students and teachers alike. Once in the principal's office, and to the general annoyance of most, the verbal belligerence was inevitably passed off as "just kidding around." In truth, there were few, if ever

any, consequences for their ill-chosen words.

In spite of this, the young, like the rest of us, must start to assume the entire responsibility not only for their actions but also their utterances. Minding your Ps and Qs would be a good starting point, along with a healthy dose of complying with the

Golden Rule of treating others the way we would want them to treat us.

No kidding, sounds simple enough.

Robert N. Wilkins is a freelance writer and retired Montreal-area high school teacher. He can be reached at montreal_1900@hotmail.com



of others. Indeed, other maxims such as "speak only when spoken to" were commonly heard by generations of children down through the years.

In a word, the opinions and thoughts of the very young were really neither sought nor valorized by adults.

Today, of course, this state of affairs is completely inverted. From the earliest age, kids are encouraged to express themselves without restriction on virtually every and any subject under the sun.

For better or for worse, this phenomenon has only increased with the relatively recent arrival of social networking sites, such as Facebook. Even on the most glorious of late autumnal days, some people (more often than not adolescents) will spend hour after hour chatting and 'fooling around' online. Moreover, the ubiquitous cell phone (now doubling also as a texting and photographic device) is contributing as well to this trend of unbridled youthful expressionism.

Chock full of unabashed creativity and self-confidence, there is seemingly only a couple of components missing in many of our youth today; that being an equal measure of both common sense and compassion.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Services municipaux période des Fêtes 2010

Pendant la période des Fêtes, l'horaire des services municipaux de la Ville de Westmount sera modifié comme suit :

Bureaux administratifs

Les bureaux administratifs situés à l'hôtel de ville, à Hydro Westmount, au Service des travaux publics, à la Sécurité publique (y compris le bureau des permis de stationnement) et à l'Aréna de Westmount sont fermés :

- du 24 au 28 décembre; et
- du 31 décembre au 4 janvier

Conservatoire et serres

Ces installations sont ouvertes au public selon l'horaire suivant :

- Du 21 au 23 décembre de 10 h à 21 h
- Le 24 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45
- Le 25 décembre - Fermé
- Le 26 décembre de 10 h à 17 h
- Du 27 au 30 décembre de 10 h à 21 h
- Le 31 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45
- Le 1^{er} janvier - Fermé
- Le 2 janvier de 10 h à 17 h
- Les 3 et 4 janvier de 10 h à 21 h

Bibliothèque publique de Westmount

Fermée du 24 décembre au 26 décembre, et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier.

Centre communautaire Victoria Hall

Fermé du 23 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement.

Patinoires de l'Aréna

Les patinoires de hockey et de patinage libre sont ouvertes selon l'horaire des Fêtes disponible sur notre site Web. L'Aréna est fermé les 25 décembre et 1^{er} janvier.

Services de cueillette

Veillez noter que les collectes de résidus verts, de matières recyclables et d'ordures auront lieu selon l'horaire normal au cours de la période des fêtes.

Municipal Services 2010 Holiday Period

During the holiday season, the City of Westmount has modified operating schedules for services and municipal buildings, as outlined below:

Administrative Offices

Administrative offices in City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security (including the Parking Permits office) and in the Westmount Arena will be closed:

- December 24 to December 28
- December 31 to January 4

Conservatory and Greenhouses

These facilities are open to the public according to the following hours:

- December 21 to 23 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- December 24 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- December 25 - Closed
- December 26 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- December 27 to 30 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- December 31 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- January 1 - Closed
- January 2 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- January 3 & 4 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Westmount Public Library

Closed from December 24 to December 26, and from December 31 to January 2.

Victoria Hall Community Centre

Closed from December 23 until January 4 inclusively.

Skating Rinks at the Arena

The rinks for hockey and general skating will open to the public according to the holiday schedule available on our Web site. The Arena will be closed December 25 and January 1.

Collection Services

Please note that collection of kitchen waste, recycling and garbage will take place according to the regular schedule throughout the holiday season.

Continued from page 1

Property taxes rise slightly

Although the residential mill rate remains frozen at \$1.0361, the Sept. 15 valuation roll sets the value of the average single-family Westmount home at \$1.09 million. This means a total tax bill of about \$11,302 in the coming year — a 2.16 per cent increase over 2010.

Apartment buildings will see a 2.23 per cent increase, while commercial property owners can expect a 5.8 per cent increase in their 2011 tax bill.

Director General Duncan Campbell pointed out that although the new valuation roll increased property values by 19 per cent, the resulting tax increases are being phased in over the next three years in order to lessen their impact on property owners and tenants. He added that Montreal agglomeration tax increases have accounted for more than 75 per cent of the increases passed on to Westmount taxpayers.

The new tax bills will be issued by the end of January. As in previous years, taxpayers will have the option of paying in one or two instalments — the first due on March 1, the second on June 1.

Motorists hit with parking rate increases

The City also expects to bring in nearly



Motorists will be paying \$2 per hour to park in Westmount.

\$1.5 million in additional revenue through its parking meters — upping the hourly rate to \$2 on all meters and charging \$52 per infraction (a \$40 fine plus \$12 administration fee charged by Montreal). This represents a 100 per cent increase for most local meters, which currently charge 25 cents per 15 minutes, and a \$10 increase in parking infraction fines, which currently stand at \$42.

The increase places Westmount on par with Outremont for both parking rates and fines, but it remains a cheaper place to park than the Ville-Marie downtown sector, where motorists pay \$3 per hour for parking. According to city councillor Gary

Ikeman, in announcing the winter opening of the de Maisonneuve bike path this fall, an estimated \$75,000 in parking fees will be lost due to the elimination of parking meters on the south side of the street between Atwater and Greene Avenue.

As for the fine increases, he said on Monday, "It's a good move in the direction of fiscal responsibility for the City."

Price pointed out that Westmount's current budget has succeeded on several levels, despite obstacles presented by the City of Montreal.

"This past June, Council adopted four goals regarding taxes, infrastructure, traffic and urban planning," he said in his formal

speech. "Relating to taxes, we set out the following goal: freeze the City's total 2011 tax revenue levied for local services; support the mayor's efforts to control Agglomeration spending; freeze local expenditures for 2011 (not including borrowing costs). Consistent with this goal, I am pleased to announce that we have met the challenge of freezing local controllable expenditures at \$29.8 million (vs. \$30 million in 2010)."

But, he said, "the Agglomeration budget increase did not respect the guidelines adopted by the City of Montreal at the recommendation of the Association of Suburban Municipalities. This guideline called for an increase of not more than the cost of living plus 1 per cent. Westmount's share of the Agglomeration apportionment has increased by \$1,759,800 over 2010, or 3.8 per cent, and accounts for more than three-quarters of Westmount's taxation increases. If a \$45-per-car registration levy had not been budgeted for, the increase would have been substantially higher.

"As a result of the Agglomeration increase," Price said, "Council has decided that we have no choice but to pass on this increase to Westmount taxpayers for 2011."

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EXCELLENTS massages relaxation totale, stationnement gratuit: 3545 Atwater 514-937-7577

523 Masseur

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523 Masseur

514-276-1555 LING 3568 Ouest, Notre-Dame. 7 jours/11h00 à 20h00.

585 Miscellaneous financial services

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585 Miscellaneous financial services

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605 Help Wanted

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A MINIBUS SERVICE FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF CÔTE SAINT-LUC



The 262 Navette Or Côte Saint-Luc

Since November 2nd, STM's route 262 Navette Or is in operation in Côte Saint-Luc.

What is a Navette Or?

It is a neighbourhood shuttle service specially designed for senior citizens. Service is provided by the means of 20 seats minibuses. The Navette Or 262 is in service between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, except legal holidays. The route stops at 15 locations in Côte Saint-Luc and then reaches the Carrefour

Angrignon Shopping Centre. For example, you may take the Navette Or to go to the Maimonides Geriatric Centre, to Cavendish Mall, to the Eleanor-London Public Library and to many residences. It's almost as if you were driven through the streets of Côte Saint-Luc by your private chauffeur.

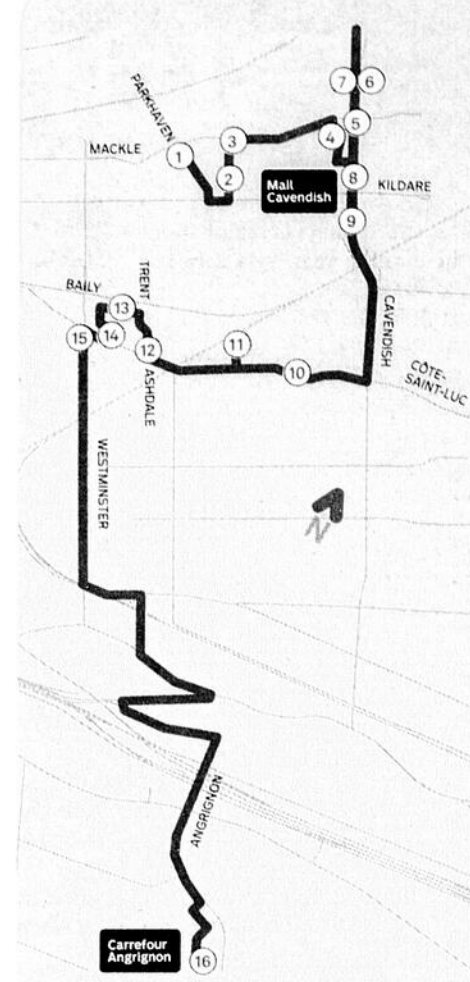
Can everyone ride the Navette Or?

Yes! Even if this service has been designed especially for seniors, Everyone may use it.



What about the fare?

The fare is the same as that of buses and métro. If you have an OPUS card, it is accepted aboard the Navette Or. Payment in cash is accepted (exact amount only).



SOUTHBOUND – TO CARREFOUR ANGRIGNON SHOPPING MALL

	LOCATION OF SHUTTLE STOPS	SHUTTLE ARRIVAL TIMES				STOP CODE
1	Côte Saint-Luc public pool, 7500 Parkhaven Avenue	9:38	11:15	12:52	14:29	61061
2	Caldwell Residences, 5789 Caldwell Avenue	9:40	11:17	12:54	14:31	61062
3	Maimonides Geriatric Centre, corner of Caldwell / Mackle	9:41	11:18	12:55	14:32	61063
4	Cavendish Mall and CLSC René-Cassin, entrance next to IGA	9:44	11:21	12:58	14:35	61064
5	Manoir Montefiore Residence, corner of Cavendish / Mackle	9:45	11:22	12:59	14:36	61065
6	Corner of Cavendish / Collins	9:47	11:24	13:01	14:38	61066
7	Corner of Cavendish / Louis-Pasteur	9:48	11:25	13:02	14:39	61067
8	Eleanor-London Library, 5851 Cavendish Blvd.	9:51	11:28	13:05	14:42	56419
9	Le Castel Royal Residence, corner of Cavendish / Heywood	9:53	11:30	13:07	14:44	56400
10	St. Patrick Square Residence, corner of Côte-Saint-Luc / Rosedale	9:58	11:35	13:12	14:49	56409
11	Côte Saint-Luc shopping mall, entrance by Dollarama sign	9:59	11:36	13:13	14:50	61068
12	Le Waldorf and Maison Hamilton Residences, corner of Ashdale / Earle	10:02	11:39	13:16	14:53	61069
13	Manoir King David Residence, corner of Baily / Trent	10:03	11:40	13:17	14:54	61070
14	Corner of Kingsley / Sunnybrooke	10:05	11:42	13:19	14:56	61071
15	B'nai Brith House, 5475 Westminster Avenue	10:06	11:43	13:20	14:57	61072
16	Carrefour Angrignon shopping mall, no. 2 entrance, next to Sears	10:21	11:58	13:35	15:12	60968

NORTHBOUND – TO PARKHAVEN / MACKLE

	LOCATION OF SHUTTLE STOPS	SHUTTLE ARRIVAL TIMES				STOP CODE
16	Carrefour Angrignon shopping mall, no. 2 entrance, next to Sears	10:21	11:58	13:35	15:12	60968
15	B'nai Brith House, coin Westminster/Côte-Saint-Luc	10:36	12:13	13:50	15:27	56423
14	Corner of Kingsley / Sunnybrooke	10:37	12:14	13:51	15:28	61050
13	Manoir King David Residence, corner of Baily / Trent	10:39	12:16	13:53	15:30	61051
12	Le Waldorf and Maison Hamilton Residences, corner of Ashdale / Earle	10:40	12:17	13:54	15:31	61052
11	Côte Saint-Luc shopping mall, entrance by Dollarama sign	10:43	12:20	13:57	15:34	61053
10	St. Patrick Square Residence, corner of King-Edward / Côte-Saint-Luc	10:44	12:21	13:58	15:35	61054
9	Le Castel Royal Residence, corner of Cavendish / Kildare	10:50	12:27	14:04	15:41	56392
8	Eleanor-London Library, 5851 Cavendish Blvd.	10:51	12:28	14:05	15:42	56427
7	Manoir Montefiore Residence, corner of Cavendish / Mackle	10:52	12:29	14:06	15:43	61055
6	Corner of Cavendish / Collins	10:54	12:31	14:08	15:45	61056
5	Corner of Cavendish / Louis-Pasteur	10:55	12:32	14:09	15:46	61057
4	Cavendish Mall and CLSC René-Cassin, entrance next to IGA	10:57	12:34	14:11	15:48	61058
3	Caldwell Residences, 5789 Caldwell Avenue	11:02	12:39	14:16	15:53	61059
2	Maimonides Geriatric Centre, corner of Caldwell / Mackle	11:02	12:39	14:16	15:53	56341
1	Côte Saint-Luc public pool, 7500 Parkhaven Avenue	11:04	12:41	14:18	15:55	61061

A service designed for seniors, do not hesitate to use it!

SOCIETY IN MOTION



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