

Loeb paints to celebrate 150th

Mayor Steinberg to run again

Loose Adalbert dogs cause issue



Carol Loeb in her home on January 13 in front of Canada-inspired paintings that are part of her cross-country project to celebrate the 150th birthday of Canadian confederation. See story on p. 16.

Photo: Isaac Olson.



Incumbent Hampstead mayor William Steinberg announced on January 16 that he will be seeking a fourth term in the municipal elections this November 5. For story, see p. 15.

Photo: Martin C. Barry.



Harvey Fox addressed the Côte St. Luc city council on January 23. His was concerned about unleashed dogs whose owner lives in his Adalbert Ave. building. See story, p. 11.

Photo: Isaac Olson.

Twice monthly
V9 (1D)
January 31, 2017

FREE PRESS

NDG
Hampstead
Côte St. Luc

Mayor Copeman, Cllr. Searle agree on proposals for St. Jacques, Girouard & Sherbrooke

Cllr. McQueen petitions for on-ramp, pedestrian safety

BY ISAAC OLSON

Kicking off the January 16 borough council meeting, NDG district councillor Peter McQueen launched a petition that calls on the Quebec government to build an on-ramp from St. Jacques St. to the northbound Highway 15 (Decarie Expressway).

The petition also demands improved pedestrian safety on Sherbrooke St. between Decarie Blvd. and Girouard Ave.

"I am launching a major campaign on that front," began McQueen before reading the petition out loud.

"We, the pedestrians along Sherbrooke

St., demand all-traffic-stopped pedestrian signals at the Girouard and Decarie Blvd. intersections," states the petition. "We, the cyclists of NDG, demand a 15-second bike and pedestrian only phase to cross Decarie Blvd. along the de Maisonneuve bike path."

The petition calls on Transport Quebec and Montreal's centre city to honour the 2007 McGill University Health Centre traffic plan by building a Highway 15 entrance on the eastern side of the St. Jacques St. bridge (currently under construction). McQueen is calling on the government to present detailed engineering plans as soon as possible so that "traffic volumes on Sherbrooke

continued on p. 6

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Sutton



Worries percolate as St. Columba hall vacated by Chabad NDG

By ISAAC OLSON

While there was still a moving truck in front of St. Columba Church as of January 25, the property has reportedly been vacated. There is plywood on some of the church's windows and the entire property, from the church to its attached, brick-faced social hall, appears empty.

When residents pulled together last year to thwart the demolition of St. Columba Church and nix the proposed housing project, they were told that the property would likely be abandoned. Undeterred, 244 residents signed the registry.

Of those opposing residents, there were many fighting for the preservation of the church, saying they didn't want a housing project making the streets even busier. Now, some of those residents are continuing to demand the property be safeguarded against time and the elements.

Throughout the dispute, members of the Chabad NDG and residents have expressed concerns that anti-Semitism played a key role for some of those fighting to stop the development from taking root. There was vandalism of the menorah in front of the centre, Nazi salutes and a growing unease in the community.



On January 25, a moving truck was parked at Chabad NDG's former home in St. Columba's hall and the church had some windows boarded up.



Chabad NDG and a daycare were located in St. Columba's social hall at 4020 Hingston Ave. Chabad NDG's administration had been offered the facility if the townhouse project came to life but, without it, the organization needed new options. A fundraising effort was launched with hopes of purchasing the property last

summer, but it appears that the needed money did not materialize.

According to the property's owner, Chabad NDG and the daycare have elected to move out, but Chabad NDG's Rabbi Yisroel Bernath says the owner wanted the property vacated.

Bernath says his organization is trying to secure a new location but, other than pop-up events at various locations, Chabad NDG currently has no home, but "We are committed to the NDG community."

A call for protecting the church

Now many of those same registry-signing residents are calling on the borough to do more to protect the property. With organizations like the NDG Food Depot in need of a new location to operate out of, residents are asking the borough to explore options for the church.

During the January 16 borough council meeting, Monique Charpentier expressed concerns that the now empty, historical property is not being heated or maintained. There are examples, she said, of developers abandoning properties in the city, ignoring them until they are dilapidated beyond repair or burned by fire. This way, she implied, the building would be demolished. She asked about the borough's inspections – specifically asking for assurance that the two buildings are properly heated during the winter.

A borough official with the Urban Planning department said the property is inspected regularly, though repairs cannot be demanded unless it is considered a question of safety.

In a later phone interview, borough mayor Russell Copeman said, "We are rigorously applying the by-laws that are available to us ... Those by-laws have limits."

In an email chain that included media, councillors, developers and neighbours, Judith Bird wrote on January 6, "My husband and I attended the presentation of the proposed development last year and felt it was a reasonable solution." She stated that it is "upsetting" that a group of NDGers have derailed the project "resulting in the church being boarded up and left vacant with no prospect of this situation changing in the near future."

Emailer claims 'Chabad ghetto'

Bird was responding to an email chain sparked by one of the developers, Robert Blatt. Blatt sent a letter addressed "to the residents of NDG" in response to a widely circulated email dated December 14. The email in question was sent by a "Paul Diacon" to residents in the area. In the email, Diacon continued to argue against the project even though it was canceled six months ago. Diacon questions who the true owner of the property is and argued that, were the church demolished, the Chabad should not be allowed to stay in the adjacent building because the property would no longer be a house of worship.

On January 26, the city of Montreal's *registre foncier* listed the owner as 9286-5310 Quebec Inc., which has been the owner since the beginning of this dispute. On the same day, the Quebec company registry listed Blatt as a director of the company. Its shareholders are two companies, one with the same address as the other director, David Kakon, and the other with a shareholder at the same address as Blatt.

"If the project is carried out, it is evident that the new houses built will be sold as a priority (or exclusively) to the members of Chabad," Diacon wrote in French. "There is a great *continued on p. 16*

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help home sellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

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For the Refugees looks to raise funds for families that sheltered Snowden

BY ISAAC OLSON

NDGer Michael Simkin is one of three local lawyers behind For the Refugees, a non-profit organization founded in late November 2016 to raise funds for the families that provided shelter to Edward Snowden in Hong Kong.

The aim, a December press release states, is, along with fundraising, “to give a voice to Canadians who want our government to know that these exceptional individuals deserve a home and a future in our communities.”

The group is working in collaboration with Snowden's Hong Kong lawyer, Robert Tibbo, who is also a Montreal native. Snowden, who leaked classified information from the US National Security Agency (NSA) in 2013, was temporarily sheltered by refugee families in Hong Kong. Those

families had fled to Hong Kong from places like Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The families have been living “in limbo” in Hong Kong and now For the Refugees is looking to help.

Simkin, in a phone interview, noted that these families were unknown to the public until recently. Their story became known in the recent Oliver Stone movie about Snowden.

The families are asylum seekers that have been in Hong Kong for up to a decade and some have children who have been born stateless. So far, he noted, about \$80,000 has been raised for the families so they can pay their monthly expenses. The UN, he noted, has cut these families off from any of the usual stipends, said Simkin, and they need money.

The next step, added Simkin, is to find a place for these families to permanently

settle and “they’ve expressed a clear interest in Canada.” The families, he explained, are being politically targetted due to their association with Snowden.

“Their lives are considerably worse off now,” Simkin said. “It’s a fundamental justice issue.”

For the Refugees is asking people to voice their concern for these families and rally the community. The lawyers, Marc-André Séguin, Francis Tourigny and Simkin are asking people to “donate, Tweet, write, speak out and join us.” Simkin said the hope is that Canadians

will show that these families are welcome in the country.

“The legal case for these families is clear,” states the press release. “We have a strategy in place. But the political challenges these families face are such that we need to maintain strong public support in their favour. We need to keep our politicians in check and remind them that this cannot be neglected, pushed back or forgotten.”

For more information, write to: info@fortherefugees.com

Arab, Jewish actors take on role of other group

Mr. Goldberg Goes to Tel Aviv coming to Infinithéâtre

Howard Rosenstein has a role in Infinithéâtre's upcoming production of Oren Safdie's *Mr. Goldberg Goes to Tel Aviv*.

According to a press release, Guy Sprung, the director, intentionally cast Rosenstein, a Jewish actor from NDG, as a Palestinian – and an Arab actor, Mohsen El Gharbi, in a Jewish role. This, states the

release, “is a symbolic testament to our universal humanity.”

Written by Oren Safdie, the play is described as a “fast-paced poignant farce” that doesn't shy away from the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. The play is showing at the St. James Theatre on St. Jacques St. from January 30 through February 19.

NDG's Rabbi Bernath featured

Kosher Love to premiere Feb. 12 at Oscar Peterson

Kosher Love, a film that looks at the search for true love and marriage in the orthodox, Hasidic world, is slated to premiere on February 12 at 7 pm in Concordia University's Oscar Peterson Hall on Sherbrooke St.

From the Academy Award-winning producer Frederic Bohbot, the film stars several locals, including Rabbi Yisroel Bernath of Chabad NDG and his family.

“Using levity, animation and playful-

ness, *Kosher Love* aims to reveal that, regardless of how we approach it, dating and romance are universally crazy and unpredictable,” states a press release. “Watch as a rabbinical matchmaker, a young Hasidic couple and a single, religious rapper explore the precise meaning of love, the need for marriage and the concept of soulmates.”

Tickets can be bought in advance through the Eventbrite website.




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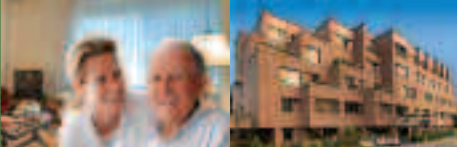


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January 16 borough council meeting highlights

Federation CJA's centennial honoured, Rotrand now head of Coalition Montréal

By ISAAC OLSON

At the start of the January 16 borough council meeting, Snowdon councillor Marvin Rotrand spoke highly of Federation CJA before a motion was adopted officially congratulating the Jewish-focused organization for its 100 years of service.

On January 10, the councillor issued an email stating, "Federation CJA has reached an important milestone. This month represents its 100th anniversary of serving Montreal's Jewish community."

"Indeed, in the days before the social welfare net was legislated as a governmental organization, Federation was about the only place Jews could receive social services. Federation played a key role in the community, particularly at a time of widespread anti-Semitism across Quebec."

These reasons, said Rotrand, inspired him to table the motion recognizing the anniversary and services offered by the organization.

"The council recognizes that you have a proud history and we wish you a proud future as well," said Rotrand.

Rotrand elected party chief

Rotrand, an NDG resident, also announced that he has been elected chief of the Coalition Montréal, a municipal party that was initiated by the late Marcel Côté in 2013.

"It is less partisan than the other parties, Rotrand noted, calling the Coalition a pragmatic, progressive party that "gives the people a good choice."



Snowdon councillor Marvin Rotrand speaking during the January 16 borough council meeting.

\$2.6 million spent on sports, recreation

The council authorized the signing of agreements with organizations to carry out sports and recreation activities. The payment of financial contributions will total just over \$2.6 million over the next two years, ending December 2018.

Prevention CDN-NDG

The borough approved a contribution totalling \$500,600 to Prevention Côte des Neiges-NDG as part of a two-year agreement spanning between January 17, 2017 and December 31, 2018. The organization will carry out activities related to the Montreal program to support urban safety.

Discretionary contributions

Tapping into their discretionary funds,

councillors and the mayor approved more than \$6,000 in one-time financial contributions this month, with the majority of the recipients being in Côte des Neiges.

Of those in NDG, the NDG Community Council was awarded \$500 to help organize an intercultural roundtable for Ramadan 2017. It was Searle who signed off on that contribution. Borough mayor Russell Copeman and NDG district councillor Peter McQueen gave a total of \$400 to Bienvenue à NDG, an immigrant-focused organization that will use the money to support its volunteer activities program.

McQueen's expense approved

An expenditure of \$431.16 (including taxes) was authorized to support McQueen's attendance of the Winter Cycling Congress from February 8 to 10. He will be representing the borough during an event that has, in the past, been held in places like Winnipeg and Leeward. This year, it will be held in Montreal.

Slim pickings

While meetings generally are filled to the brim with citizens wanting to ask questions, this meeting only drew 11 people to the microphone.

That means everybody who signed up got to ask their question – a rare event, indeed.

More often than not, there are more than 20 people signed up for question period and not all get microphone time because the allotted 90 minutes runs out before they get a chance to speak.

Three groups team up to offer nature series

Three groups have teamed up to create a conference series titled "Nature in the

City."

Held at the Co-op la Maison Verte at 5785 Sherbrooke St., the series is hosted by Transition NDG, Sauvons la Falaise and Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook.

Throughout February and March 2017, there will be four presentations and walks in nearby green spaces.

The series begins on February 8 at 7:30 pm.

According to a press release, the conference will deal with the "impending loss to residential construction of L'Anse à l'Orme in Pierrefonds Ouest, a 180+ hectare area teeming with biodiversity according to recent studies."

The next conference, slated for February 21, will address Meadowbrook and the Falaise St. Jacques.

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Tax clinic volunteers needed

The NDG Community Council has put out a call for 30 volunteers to help with the 2017 tax season. The organization will host tax clinics across the neighbourhood in March and April, offering NDGers free services.

Volunteer training takes place in March. Previous experience in preparing taxes is an asset, but everyone with knowledge in accounting or finance with an interest in learning tax preparation is encouraged to apply. The application deadline is February 17. For more information, call 514.484.1471 ext. 229.

Man recorded in the act of stealing wallet at Monkland Ave. restaurant



POLICE REPORT STATION 11

The following news stories are based on information from police reports provided by a Station 11 constable in an interview with the reporter.

On January 20 just after 8 pm, two men in their 40s walked into a Monkland Ave. restaurant, looked around and were offered a place to sit, but, instead, the men asked for a specific table, according to Station 11 constable Claire Parkinson.

"They decided they wanted to choose the table and they chose a table directly behind two women," said Parkinson, describing the surveillance footage captured.

"One of the suspects sat directly behind one of the women, so his back was to her."

Parkinson said the suspect had noticed the woman's coat and purse were slung over the back of her chair.

The suspect put his coat over his chair and sat down directly across from the other man that he came in with.

With his back to the woman, the suspect slipped his hand under his coat, "but we

know that he was actually getting into the woman's purse," said Parkinson.

This, she explained, is how he stole the wallet and, as soon as he got it, both men left the restaurant.

"It happened within the span of a few minutes," said Parkinson.

Parkinson said it is important that people not put their purses or bags over the back of their chairs while dining in restaurants.

Purses or bags containing valuables should be kept in plain view of their owners.

Many restaurants, she noted, have hooks under the table to hang purses from.

"Keep it in your sight at all times," said Parkinson.

"Remember, also, not to leave your wallet or valuables in your coat or jacket if it is over the back of your chair."

A lot of restaurants and establishments have video surveillance. Police are still investigating this case, she said, and both men are being sought as one allegedly served as the lookout while the other swiped the wallet. – *Isaac Olson*

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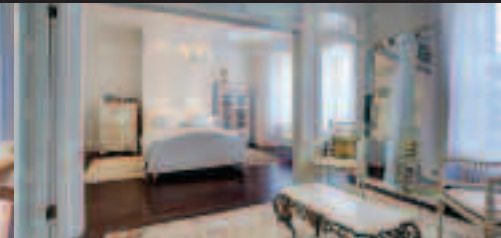
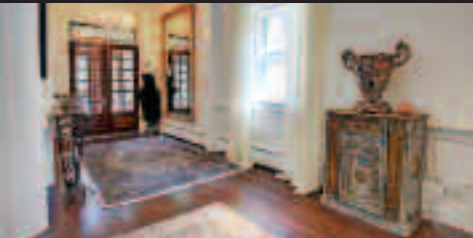
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Petition, cont'd. from p. 1

St. can be lowered and the above safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists can be implemented.”

The petition also asks engineers to study the potential of a southbound exit to St. Jacques St. from Highway 15.

In his opening remarks, McQueen said exit and entrance ramps connecting St. Jacques St. to the Decarie expressway would reduce the amount of congestion seen every day on Sherbrooke St. between Decarie Blvd. and Girouard Ave.

During those remarks, McQueen called attention to the December 18 collision that left a pedestrian, Dereck Husband, dead. He was walking along Sherbrooke St. near the Girouard Ave. intersection when he was hit by a snow-removal truck. McQueen called on Montreal mayor Denis Coderre and his administration to instate a law requiring all of Montreal's contractors to have side guards on their trucks.

Borough mayor Russell Copeman later pointed out that the truck was not connected to the city. It was a provincial vehicle.

Beyond that, Copeman said he agrees with McQueen's petition to make streets safer for pedestrians.



NDG district councillor Peter McQueen reads from his newly launched petition during the January 16 borough council meeting.

Loyola district councillor Jeremy Searle, during his opening remarks at the January 16 meeting, said he supports McQueen's initiative as well. However, Searle dedicated many of his comments to the word “accident.” He encouraged McQueen and others to avoid the term because “you use the word ‘accident,’ you predetermine that there's no fault,” Searle said.

“Somebody is always to blame,” said Searle, who described “accident” as a “horrible word to use when somebody has been killed.”

Public notice



Invitation COUNCIL MEETING

Russell Copeman, Borough Mayor, **Magda Popeanu**, Councillor, Côte-des-Neiges district, **Peter McQueen**, Councillor, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce district, **Jeremy Searle**, Councillor, Loyola district, **Marvin Rotrand**, Councillor, Snowdon district, and **Lionel Perez**, Councillor, Darlington district, invite you to attend the next meeting of the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough council,

Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7 p.m.
at 6767, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges

At the meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions or submit requests on any issue concerning your borough or the municipal administration (90 minute period). A period of registration will be held from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. for that purpose.

The agenda and related reports are generally available (in French) in the *Borough Hall* section of the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough Website (ville.montreal.qc.ca/cdn-ndg) as well as at the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Accès Montréal office, located at 5160, boulevard Décarie, ground floor (311 – Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough), on the Thursday afternoon before the borough council meeting. The Council meeting is broadcast live on the borough Website.

Please note that the FINAL agenda is the one adopted by the municipal councillors at the beginning of each meeting.

La secrétaire d'arrondissement,
Geneviève Reeves, avocate

Pop-ups filled up with non-fossil info



ROGER HAUGHEY ROGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

Montrealers are no strangers to the “pop-up” concept, where vacant or temporary space is repurposed for a brief event or activity. In recent years we have seen everything from art hives, galleries, restaurants and retail stores to flea markets make use of this innovative use of space.

Now Transition NDG (TNDG), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating more resilient communities through pursuing less fossil fuel-dependent lifestyles has organized a series of eight pop-up cafés called “Furthering a Practical Approach to Modern Challenges.” The first event, which happened on January 23, was a big success, and TNDG is looking ahead to an interesting, delicious and thought-provoking couple of months.

On Monday, January 30, its pop-up café will host four different activities: discussions on non-violent communication and issues around biodiversity, and making the most of your sourdough starter.

Monday, February 6 features “Fermented Foods – Community Resilience,” presenting an overview of the science behind fermentation. Participants will prepare and take home a jar of sauerkraut.

The February 13 café will discuss “Composting and Waste Management – Transition and Systems Dynamics.” The topic of February 20 will be “Radical Rest Homes: the Transition Movement in Canada,” while the February 27 edition is titled, “Waste Audit – Transitioning to a New Paradigm with Permaculture Principles.”

The themes of the last two activities, March 6 and March 13, have yet to be determined.

Doors open for all the pop-up cafés at 1



The pop-up café team, from left, Kathryn Aitken, Sonya Girard and Esther Fukuyama, January 2017.

pm and in some cases there will be a cost, with reduced price spots available for those who cannot afford to attend.

The pop-ups are held at Café Zéphyr, 5791 Sherbrooke St. (corner Melrose). For more details about the café series, a more detailed schedule, or to learn more about Transition NDG, contact Kathryn Aitken at 514.743.6672, or visit transitionndg.wordpress.com.

Stonecraft on stone craft

The West End Horticultural Society will be meeting at the Kensington Presbyterian Church Hall, 6225 Godfrey Ave., at 7:30 pm on Feb. 8. After a brief annual general meeting, everyone is invited to learn how breathtaking artistry can be found in the garden, as John Bland of Stonecraft talk about artistic stone walling, masonry and slate sculpture. Admission is free for members, \$5 for guests. For more information, contact Mary at 514.489.0484.

Remember, if you know a community standout or would like your event or activity to appear in a future column, send me an email at least three weeks in advance: roger-haughey@gmail.com

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LCC helps visually impaired students skate



LCC students help visually impaired Philip E. Layton students play ice hockey. Photo courtesy of LCC

Just before December came to a close, Lower Canada College (LCC) senior school students were busy helping visually impaired students from Philip E. Layton school skate and take a shot at the hockey net.

The visiting students, aged 7 to 18 years, took to the ice in the Glenn J. Chamandy Arena, as part of the Canadian Blind

Hockey Association's youth program, according to a press release. LCC students helped the visually impaired students lace up their skates, put on their helmets and hit the ice.

Blind hockey uses an adapted puck that makes noise and is both larger and slower than a normal puck.

Loyola High School alumni earn Order of Canada

Pierre Morrisette and Richard Renaud, alumni of Loyola High School, have been awarded the Order of Canada, according to the school's website. The announcement was made on December 30.

Morrisette graduated in 1964. He was recognized for his business leadership as head of The Weather Network/MétéoMédia. He has also served as a member of the advisory council for the Pierre L. Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship at the Ivey Business School at Western University. He is a trustee of the Pierre L. Morrisette Family Foundation and the Mental Wellness Network Foundation. Morrisette has continued to support the high school over the years, the website states.

Renaud graduated in 1963. He was rec-

ognized for his philanthropic generosity as founder of the Roasters Foundation and for his leadership within a number of Montreal's charitable organizations. For example, Renaud supports Centraide, St. Mary's Hospital and Concordia University, where he sat on the board of governors for two decades and served as director of the Concordia Foundation. Renaud's continued dedication to the high school earned him a spot in the Loyola Hall of Merit in 2006.

Established in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes "outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation," states the governor general of Canada's website. Nearly 7,000 people have been awarded the Order of Canada.

ADVERTISERS: BEING QUAIN'T WOULD BE COOL – BUT WE AIN'T QUAIN'T

Newspapers, including the *Free Press*, are not "the new thing." They are not Facebook, or Twitter, or BuzzFeed – many of which aren't that new either. They have an on-again-off-again relationship with the web. Sometimes they are there, for free. Sometimes they aren't online at all. And sometimes they hide behind pay walls.

For the layperson, the newspaper industry can seem like the buggy whip industry. It may be here now and it is old timey, but perhaps it has no material place in the modern world and is in its death throes.

Fair enough, but consider this. The mass market internet will turn, in my view, 22 years old this year. I date it from the IPO of Netscape in August 1995. It was then that the internet arrived on everyone's radar and internet companies found investors willing to back them in a material way.

If the internet were really going to kill off newspapers altogether, wouldn't it have done so in 22 years? Isn't that especially true for a medium (the internet) that prides itself on *speed*?

In my opinion, another point must be made: there is a huge distinction between paid-circulation newspapers and free ones. Paid newspapers have to sell their product first to the reader, and then to their advertisers, which contribute the material part of their revenue. The trick is to show advertisers that a reader who pays for a newspaper is worth more to them than one who doesn't. The problem in the era of free news is that fewer and fewer readers want to pay for content, even if it is of higher quality than the free variety.

We free newspapers are a different thing altogether, even though we look similar to subscription-based papers since we are on newsprint too.

Firstly, we're free, so no one has to fork out \$25 per month (or whatever) to receive our paper. Our circulation doesn't go up or down (unless we want it to).

Secondly, we cover topics that aren't covered elsewhere. Donald Trump and Justin Trudeau are covered *ad nauseam* in many media outlets: tv, radio, websites, print. Are the mayors of Côte des Neiges-NDG, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc? Are those municipalities' council meetings? Their regulations? Their budgets and taxation?

Metropolitan-level papers can't cover our three areas (or any) in depth. On just the island of Montreal, there are 15 demerged municipalities and 19 boroughs. You can't cover all those meetings, or their parking regulations, or their traffic problems, or all that local crime, in a single newspaper. And if they did, most readers would be bored to death. Do you care about the sports and rec programs of the municipality two towns over from where you live?

The free aspect of our product dovetails well with our super-local content. Many (most?) people don't think they are interested in local news. Many won't look for it the way they do for Trudeau or Trump or Syria. They *think* they care more about those things. But when a construction project that they oppose is planned for next door, or a change is proposed to their favourite sports program, or they can't get to work on time because of traffic issues, or they can't park in front of their houses, they realize that *local* is relevant to them in a way that world-important events aren't.

If a good local newspaper is there, unsolicited, in their mailbox and around town, they will read it, despite thinking and saying that they don't care about local news and in many cases find the whole topic kind of ridiculous.

Imagine yourself on the floor of the Bell Centre. It holds about 20,000 people. Imagine if you could talk to all those people about your product or service. We publish 26,000 copies of our paper per issue, many of which end up in houses with two or more adult inhabitants.

Are some of your potential clients among them? Let's find out.

David Price, MBA (University of Toronto, 1999)
514.935.4537 • editor@freepresspaper.com

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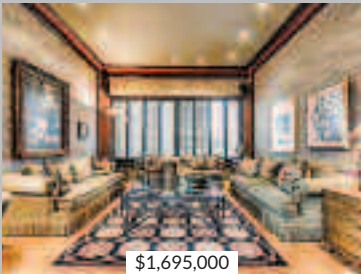
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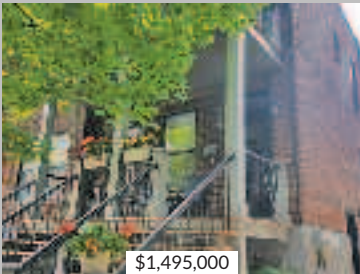


\$1,695,000

HAMPSTEAD | IDEAL FAMILY HOME

Perfectly located on a corner lot in the heart of Hampstead, this large home is perfect for family living. Complete with a large kitchen/family room, 6 bedrooms, and a double integrated garage. MLS 16449785

ANNE BEN-AMI (MADAR)* 514.726.3037



\$1,495,000

NDG | WESTMOUNT ADJ. | TRIPLEX

In Victoria village & just a few minutes from the new Super Hospital, this completely renovated triplex has been overhauled from top to bottom. Quality details & design, this is the perfect turn-key investment property, with excellent revenue potential. An amazing opportunity. MLS 13972254

KAREN ROSSY 514.963.6311**



RECENTLY REDUCED

\$1,095,000

CDN | DUPLEX OR SPACIOUS HOUSE

Duplex converted into a huge house, ideally located. Height bedrooms, possibility of 10. Ideal for a large family or a professional office at home. The property kept it's cachet, high ceilings, wood floors. It offers a big terrace, a garage, and superb luminosity. MLS 15222872

MARTIN BILODEAU* 438.871.1030



\$1,145,000

CDN | WESTMOUNT ADJACENT

This 4 bedroom semi-detached cottage boasts hardwood floors, central a/c, 2 fireplaces, finished basement, and garage. Within walking distance of all services. MLS 13590381

SUSAN RANSEN* 514.815.5105



INTRODUCING

\$978,000

NDG | DUPLEX IN PRIME LOCATION

Location! Rare opportunity to acquire a totally renovated duplex within minutes to Monkland village. Upper is rented till June 30, 2018. Lower, including basement with separate entrance, is available to purchase. MLS 20433396

**MAUREEN BROUSSEAU* 514.935.4597
JILL SHPRITZER** 514.691.0800**

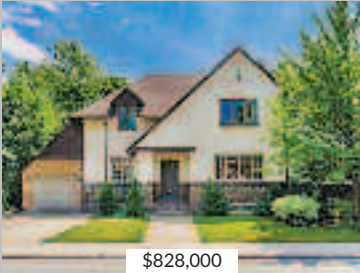


\$948,000

NDG | RETIREMENT HOME

Place Mariette. Excellent opportunity for investors. Residence for the elderly. Building and business for sale. 15 years in operation. Very well maintained & professionally staffed. 13 rooms. Well located, 10 minutes from super hospital Chum. MLS 15938305

PINA PIZZI* 514.781.4826



\$828,000

OLD HAMPSTEAD | CHARMING COTTAGE

Stunning & completely renovated 4 bdrm cottage on prestigious Queen Mary Road. New kitchen w/high-end wood cabinetry & granite counters. 2 baths, one style spa w/jacuzzi & bathtub. Large family room. New windows/roof. Terrace, big backyard, garage, & long drive-way. MLS 27719201

GÉRALDINE LIBRATY* 514.962.5563



RECENTLY REDUCED

\$749,000

NDG | MONKLAND VILLAGE

Completely renovated triplex near Monkland Village. Perfect revenue property in a great location. Close to all amenities and in walking distance from the park and public transportation. MLS 11567761

SAGUY ELBAZ* 514.892.7653



\$599,000

CDN | BRIGHT & SPACIOUS UPPER CO-OP

Spacious sun filled upper co-op featuring an open concept living space with a double sided fireplace ideal for entertaining. 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hardwood floors, spacious eat in kitchen, and an interior parking spot. MLS 18962222

ROCHELLE CANTOR* 514.605.6755



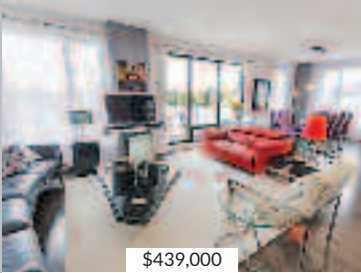
RECENTLY PURCHASED

\$569,000†

NDG | MONKLAND VILLAGE | LOWER DUPLEX

Lower duplex with stone façade, 3 bedrooms that is characteristic of Monkland Village. Large bay window, 9 ft. ceilings, wood floors, and warm sun-filled home. A bachelor suite & attached indoor garage, with exclusive backyard.

SAUL CIECHA* 514.941.6248



\$439,000

CDN | ADJACENT TMR

Elegant and modern corner unit condo with 2 bdms, 2 baths, terrace, 2 gar. spaces in tandem. Access to gym, pool, saunas, and massive common terrace with BBQs. Walking distance from subway, bus, and shopping. Close to highways. MLS 28979738

GHISLAINE ADELAND* 514.731.6378



\$1,095,000

MONTREAL-OUEST | INTERGENERATION

Prestigious property located in a desirable area of Montreal-West. Spacious rooms, beautiful kitchen, 5 bdms, and big backyard. Perfect for a family! Independent apartment above the double garage for intergeneration. MLS 17023614

**VINCENT G. BUSSIÈREΔ 514.816.3231
KEVIN PERREault* 514.774.5932**



RECENTLY PURCHASED

\$615,000*

CÔTE-SAINT-LUC | WONDERFUL FAMILY HOME

Great 4+2 bedroom home on sought after family oriented street. Sun-filled and spacious with many upgrades. Great backyard with inground pool and no rear neighbours. 2 car garage with indoor access. Close to all amenities.

LAURIE TENENBAUM* 514.248.7272



\$350,000

CÔTE-ST-LUC | TIFFANY TOWERS

Bright & spacious (1,435 sq. ft.) 2-bdrm corner unit w/fabulous view, & private balcony. Generously proportioned open concept living/dining room, kitchen w/dinette & master suite w/dressing area & ensuite bath. Amenities include outdoor pool, gym, sauna, & more. Priced to renovate. 2 garages.

KAREN KARPMAN* 514.497.8218



RECENTLY REDUCED

\$3,499,000

MONT-ROYAL | SPECTACULAR HOME

We can say without a doubt, that this spacious property has an exquisite style. The architect was inspired by an old French castle to draw its beautiful mezzanine, which makes for a spectacular view. MLS 22233751

PIERRE BRUNET 514.248.8032
ANNE GASCON* 514.592.5520**

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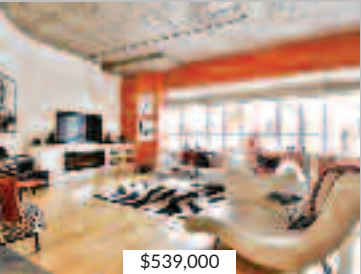
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\$2,798,000
OUTREMONT | MAJESTIC MANOR
Professionally restored with quality materials, this prestigious home stands tall at the intersection of Cote-Ste-Catherine and Avenue Laurier. 5,100 sq. ft. of living space, with 6 bedrooms and 3+1 baths. Proximity to many amenities. MLS 24445513
JOHN DI PIETRO* **514.726.1400**



\$2,495,000
UPPER OUTREMONT | STUNNING HOME
Splendid contemporary property of 4+1 bdrms & 3+1 baths. Renovated with high-end materials, spectacular lobby, gourmet kitchen, spacious family room on the ground floor, sauna and gym in the basement. Double garage with large backyard. MLS 11950944
CATHERINE ROCHON* **514.244.3602**



\$539,000
LES COURS D'OUTREMONT
Stunning loft style, two-storey condo. Open space concept, on ground floor with 11 ft. high ceilings and large windows providing plenty of natural light. Private entrance & terrace, 2 bdrms, a garage & 2 storage spaces. MLS 15883115
KEVIN PERREAULT* **514.774.5932**
VINCENT G. BUSSIÈRE^ **514.816.3231**



\$1,450,000
WESTMOUNT | BRIGHT RESIDENCE
This very bright 6 bedroom, semi-detached Westmount residence is perfect for a young family. This property offers a spacious main floor with double living room, bright dining room, and large eat-in kitchen. This is the one for you! MLS 12431006
JOSEPH MONTANARO* **514.660.3050**



RECENTLY REDUCED
\$985,000
WESTMOUNT | Le 215 REDFERN
Breathtaking 2 bdrm, 2+1 bath condo perfect for entertaining. Large open concept kitchen/living/dining, and private terrace. Many upgrades throughout from top quality appliances to custom built-ins. MLS 12597427
LIZA KAUFMAN† **514.788.2160**
ALFEE KAUFMAN† **514.771.7463**



COMMERCIAL
\$14,000,000 +txs
VILLE-MARIE | THE FIDES TOWER
An iconic 8-storey complex that boasts unobstructed views of the city from every angle. This magnificent property features over 58,000 SF of office and retail space. Over 26,000 sq. ft. of land and 30 exterior parking spots. MLS 19164276
RANDY NAAMI** **514.743.5000**



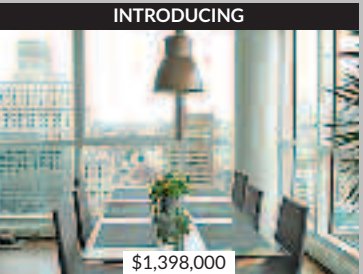
\$3,590,000
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | EXCEPTIONAL CITY VIEWS
This stunning mansion sits proud atop Redpath Crescent, one of the most prestigious streets in the Golden Square Mile. Built in 1915, for Herbert Meredith Marler, notary, this residence exudes an abundance of style and elegance. MLS 22790057
CARLO PAOLUCCI* **514.802.4004**



INTRODUCING
\$1,795,000+txs
VILLE-MARIE | PATRIMONIAL HOUSE
Unique in Montreal, this unit preserves the heritage of the building, built on 2 floors, with 3 bedrooms, custom built office space, 2 bathrooms, powder room, private courtyard, 3 indoor parking spaces, and prestigious design. MLS 14526943
SOPHIE LE GUERRIER* **514.655.0773**



INTRODUCING
\$1,499,000
DOWNTOWN | ICÔNE 2801-2501
2 superb condos of 3 bedrooms, facing the mountain, with a balcony all the way through; A must if you want a home in the city, an incredible view and the space as a bonus. New concept of structure for the mechanics on each floor. MLS 14508716 & MLS 24055826
LOUISE LATREILLE* **514.577.2009**



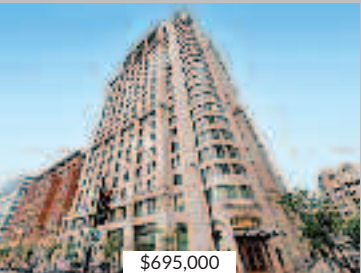
INTRODUCING
\$1,398,000
DOWNTOWN | ALTITUDE
Exclusivity perched on the 25th floor, inspirational views on 3 sides, with all of Montreal's landmarks in sight. Furnished, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 balconies, 2 parking, deluxe pool & spa, gym, additional amenities, security & concierge service. Be above it all in the heart of Montreal. MLS 23927332
MELISSA CARO* **514.606.7200**



\$895,000
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | Le 1200 OUEST
The ultimate downtown location. Beautiful spacious corner apartment with balcony, 1,550 sq. ft., 2 bdrm and 2 baths. Elegant hotel-style lobby, outdoor pool, landscaped terrace, gym with sauna and steam bath, party room, and 24/7 security. MLS 19171191
PHYLLIS A. TELLIER** **514.924.4062**



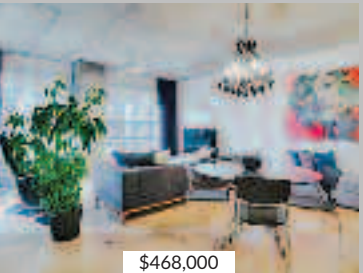
INTRODUCING
\$870,000
DOWNTOWN | TOUR DES CANADIENS
Very nice corner unit south-west exposure with a superb view of the city, and sun all day long. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Sold furnished. Garage is well located on the 3rd floor P3-13, and locker P316-8. Must see! MLS 15183425
FRÉDÉRIC LE BUIS** **514.953.9058**



\$695,000
DOWNTOWN | Le ROC FLEURI
Le Roc Fleuri, one of Montréal's most prestigious luxury condos. Close to universities, restaurants, shopping & transportation. Great views with lots of light. Brand new floors throughout with high-end finishes. Move right in! MLS 11741624
JJ JACOBS** **514.817.7020**



\$665,000
4-PLEX | GREAT INVESTMENT
Magnificent 4-plex in one of the most beautiful streets of Ville-Émard. 6% with detached double heated garage. Two 3½ and a bachelor. Large fenced yard. Possibility of 4 occupancy July 1st 2018.
MARIE-JOSÉE ROULEAU* **514.660.6682**



\$468,000
DOWNTOWN | MODERN CONDO | Le CONCORDE
Modern downtown Montreal 1 bdr condo in the prestigious Le Concorde building. Italian style kitchen and spacious bathroom. 24/7 doorman and gym. In the heart of urban activity, Quartier des spectacles and much more! MLS 21506346
MONICA GENEST* & VICTORIA MARINACCI* **514.400.0280**



RECENTLY REDUCED
\$448,000
NUNS ISLAND | SPACIOUS & ELEGANT CONDO
Spacious corner co-property located in the prestigious sector of Pointe-Sud of Nuns Island. Open concept and professional kitchen with granite counter tops. Offering charm and luxury this bright co-property offers many comforts. MLS 23409557
JOHANNE TURENNE** **514.909.9029**



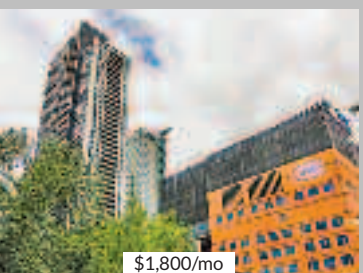
INTRODUCING
\$415,000
SHAUGHNESSY VILLAGE | IMPECCABLE CONDO
Gorgeous turn of century greystone, centrally located next to Centre for Architecture in Shaughnessy Village. Bright turn-key condo with 2 bedrooms, balcony, fireplace and parking at rear. MLS 24878093
BARBARA BAUDINET** **514.825.9890**



RECENTLY REDUCED
\$329,500
VILLE-MARIE | ELEGANT LIVING
Chic condo on the prestigious Sherbrooke street. A total purity of white on white. Large balcony facing Jacques Cartier bridge. 10ft ceilings, white maple floors, and European kitchen. Come experience the art of elegant living! MLS 21733679
KARINE DOCHE* **514.677.6244**
NAYLA SALEH* **514.941.6244**



RECENTLY PURCHASED
\$329,000*
OLD PORT | STUNNING STUDIO
Fantastic modern condo in the Old Port. 2nd level studio unit with exposed brick, quartz counter-tops, and much more. Best location with rare indoor parking spot!
JESSICA LOMBARD* **514.476.9700**
ELIZABETH COX* **514.577.2737**



\$1,800/mo
DOWNTOWN | TOUR DES CANADIENS
Condo in the clouds! Be the first to occupy this 42nd flr 1-bdrm condo w/spectacular views & first class amenities: 24/7 drman, many common rooms, game room, sauna, pool, well equipped gym, & more. Partially furnished. MLS 28944000
JILL SHPRITSER** **514.691.0800**
MAUREEN BROUSSEAU* **514.935.4597**



\$6,499,000

AHUNTSIC | SPRAWLING WATERFRONT MANSION
Sprawling waterfront mansion located on 87,953 sq. ft. of land. Opportunity to own one of the largest pieces of land on the island of Montréal, in the highly coveted Ahuntsic-Cartierville area. MLS 19339304

STEFANO BIZZOTTO* **514.962.3539**



INTRODUCING

\$700,000

PIERREFONDS | 4-PLEX WITH WATER VIEWS
Excellent location. Front garden faces beautiful lac Menard. Bright and spacious units. 1st floor offers 3 bedrooms with basement and fireplace. Interior garage, 4 space driveway, with hardwood floors. Close proximity to all amenities. MLS 18229515

FLORENCE LEZMY* **514.699.9448**



\$585,000

LACHINE | TRIPLEX WITH BACHELOR
Solid triplex with bachelor, in quiet neighbourhood, close to amenities and transportation. Main 4-bdrm apartment includes Master with ensuite, finished basement & indoor garage. Roof 2015. Perfect for owner occupant or investment. Great location! MLS 13241987

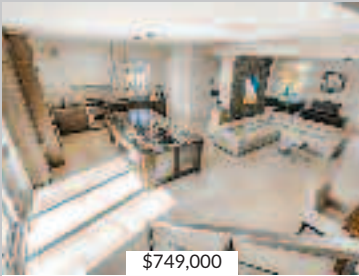
PENELOPE VILAGOS** **514.779.5122**



\$239,000

PIERREFONDS
Great condominium with a vast bedroom and 1 bathroom. This 2012 property offers 843 sq. ft. of living space, with gas fireplace, a large balcony, a/c and close to all amenities. Building with elevator and exterior parking. Ideal for a professional or a couple. MLS 21347605

NAJIB G. CHAGHOURI* **514.823.2133**



\$749,000

SAINT-MICHEL | GOLF ADJACENT
Custom built home with an oversized kitchen and butler's pantry. Open design with generous rooms. Luxurious master suite and 2 large bedrooms, along with a family room to complete the 2nd floor. Covered patio, salt-water pool, 2 garages. MLS 18771559

JOHN R. DOW* **514.586.3032**



COUNTRY
RETREATS



\$7,481,600

LAC-TREMBLANT-NORD | TRANQUILITY BAY
Nestled next to Mont-Tremblant National Park, this 330-acre property, with more than 4,400 feet of waterfront on lac Tremblant, can be sold as a spectacular private family estate or may be subdivided. MLS 19772480

HERBERT RATSCHT†† **819.429.9019**



\$1,499,000

RIGAUD | EXECUTIVE MANSION
This elegant all-brick home of 8,300 sq ft of living space, is nestled on a landscaped and private lot of 107,294 sq. ft. The property offers a side-by-side guesthouse, 4 garages, inground pool and stunning yards with a pond. MLS 17274119

BEA JARZYNSKA^ **438.989.8912**



\$1,248,000

FOSSAMBAULT-SUR-LE-LAC | LAC SAINT-JOSEPH
Magnificent house with private beach on Lac St-Joseph! Large detached double garage, with heated floor, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, and air conditioning. MLS 19300588

CHANTALE BOUCHARD* **418.569.4661**



\$1,195,000

LAC-BROME | PEACEFUL LOCATION
This magnificent property is designed to accommodate friends & family. Natural water pools, genuine teahouse, sauna, & several inviting terraces. Large rooms and a spectacular kitchen. Partial view of Brome lake. MLS 10134642

MARIE-PIERS BARSALOU** **450.577.0272**
JOHANNE MEUNIER* **514.926.5626**



\$998,998

BARKMERE | WATERFRONT | BARK LAKE
Gorgeous custom built 4 season property with road access in Bark Lake. This spacious and charming home can accommodate family and guests, with more than 14 person sleeping areas. Its breathtaking scenery of the lake is heavenly! MLS 20524181

MICHEL DAVIDSON* **514.239.7399**



\$899,000

SAINT-LAZARE | EXQUISITE ESTATE ON 2 ACRES
One of a kind custom built home. Exceptional backyard offering a heated inground pool, spa with waterfall, fire pit, many patio areas, huge circular driveway with gated entrance, and extremely private backyard with mature trees. MLS 27147239

CASSANDRA AURORA** **514.293.2277**



INTRODUCING

\$845,000

ST-GEORGES-DE-CLARENCEVILLE | LAKE CHAMPLAIN
Magnificent waterfront property sited on a large 21,950 sq ft landscaped lot w 115 + linear ft on the lake. 2010 custom built home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with a panoramic view of the lake. 45 min from Montréal and 5 min from the US border. MLS 21124053

DIANE OLIVER** **514.893.9872**



\$818,000

SAINT-FAUSTIN/LAC-CARRÉ | GOLF & WATERFRONT HOME
Countryside retreat nestled amidst the hills and trees of the Lanaudière region. This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, waterfront, log style wood cottage, complete with finished basement, sits on a nearly 18,000 sq. ft. lot. Great exterior kitchen with a built-in BBQ, facing Lac Pinet. MLS 17553720

MARSHA HANNA†† **819.425.0619**



\$699,000

WATERVILLE | SUPERIOR QUALITY
An exquisite recent residence on the banks of the beautiful River Moe. While extremely private, you will still be close to amenities. The property features an abundance of open spaces. Near the renowned Milby Golf Club. MLS 11942400

STEPHANE CLOUTIER* **819.842.1909**



\$598,000

MONT-TREMBLANT | MOUNTAINSIDE 2 IN 1 RETREAT
Authentic Post and Beam construction in its purest state, built by a trade master. This spacious home is designed to accommodate 2 families, with 5 bdrms, 3 baths, and double open concept living areas. Nestled on 2 acres of a mature forest. MLS 12950972

RAYMOND DALBEC** **819.425.4568**



INTRODUCING

\$499,000

GORE | LAC BARON
Charming waterfront property on the majestic Lac Baron (motorized). Boasting a beautiful flat, private lot, with a sandy beach. Warm and cozy interior with 4 bdrms, 2 baths, and renovated basement. Sold fully furnished. 1 hour from Montréal. MLS 12472488

MELANIE CLARKE* **450.694.0678**



\$465,000

SAINTE-ADÈLE | PANORAMIC VIEW
Great location. Huge Swiss cabin, 5 bdrm. 5+1 bath, 6 fireplaces, exposed beams, mezzanine over 3 floors with a separate apartment above ground. Former corporate luxurious chalet. Tranquillity, and close to all services. Can sell fully furnished. MLS 18873719

STÉPHANE LARRIVÉE* **514.809.8466**



INTRODUCING

\$449,700

ST-CALIXTE | WATERFRONT
Countryside retreat nestled amidst the hills and trees of the Lanaudière region. This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, waterfront, log style wood cottage, complete with finished basement, sits on a nearly 18,000 sq. ft. lot. Great exterior kitchen with a built-in BBQ, facing Lac Pinet. MLS 17553720

GABRIELE DI IORIO** **514.267.8596**



RECENTLY REDUCED

\$154,100

MONT-TREMBLANT | CAP TREMBLANT
Beautiful 2 bedroom condo, ground floor, wood fireplace, terrace with mountain views, access to the pool, spa, tennis, and shuttle bus. 5 min. from Mont-Tremblant resort. Rental program available. MLS 14219730

RACHELLE DEMERS* **514.378.8630**

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Dog owner flouting leash laws raises concerns

BY ISAAC OLSON

Harvey Fox, a resident of a 220-unit apartment complex on Adalbert Ave., says there is a tenant in his building who refuses to leash his problematic dogs, but police won't accept citizen-captured video footage, witness testimony or photographic evidence as an enforcement tool.

"He just lets them run wild," Fox told the Côte St. Luc city council on January 23, describing the dogs as pit bull and husky mixes. He said that he has made numerous complaints to Public Security and police, but in order to enforce the city's leash by-law "they need to see it themselves."

Fox said the man's dogs have attacked his own on January 4 and when he tried to intervene "like a rag in a thunderstorm, I was tossed around."

Mayor Mitchell Brownstein noted that this type of incident can be reported to police, but, Fox replied, there were no damages. He said the problem is that police are waiting until someone gets hurt rather than responding to complaints.

The man was caught once, said Fox, but it has not deterred him from walking his dogs without a leash. It has continued to be a problem, he noted, since last spring. Fox said he tries calling 911 and Public Se-

curity when he sees the man walking his dogs off leash, but "they don't want to deal with it."

Fox admitted that it is a difficult case to enforce, but it would be a lot easier if police could, at the very least, rely on video footage captured by citizens.

Brownstein said he will look into boosting patrols around specific times. Brownstein said he will have the city's director of city services look into what can be done. He said the city will look into what type of evidence is accepted and "we will work together with you."

Councillor Mike Cohen, responsible for animal welfare in the city, thanked Fox for bringing the problem forward. He said there was a similar issue on Rembrandt Ave. where the dog owner was finally caught and ticketed. It worked for a while, but then the owner was eventually seen walking the dogs off leash again.

"This is unacceptable," said Cohen, calling it a typical example of the pet owner being the problem, not the pet. "The owner has got to take responsibility. Please continue to let us know and I send that message out to anybody in the community who is experiencing a similar situation because most dog owners in Côte St. Luc are very responsible."

See photo on p. 1.

January 23 council meeting highlights

Cohen pushes for 10,000 library members

BY ISAAC OLSON

Councillor Mike Cohen kicked off the January 23 Côte St. Luc city council meeting with a push for more residents to join the library so as to surpass the 10,000-member mark. Currently there are 9,873 members.

"It's interesting that 95 percent of the members are from Côte St. Luc," observed Cohen. "That's 9,412."

Membership is free for residents of Côte St. Luc, but there is a cost to join for those outside the city. Cohen said, considering the cost of buying new books, being a library member is worth every penny for non-residents of Côte St. Luc.

Quartier Cavendish update

The major construction project next to Quartier Cavendish mall is inching toward a summer 2017 completion, according to Cohen. The building, which is right next door to the mall and across the street from

city hall, is slated to have 90 units on six floors with a penthouse and ground-floor commercial, Cohen explained.

The underground parking structure is complete, he said, and the contractor has begun backfilling the foundation in preparation to work through the rest of winter.

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City expands kids' programming

According to a December press release, Côte St. Luc has teamed up with Le R.E.C. Room to offer kids drop-in play times, birthday parties, pedagogical day programming and winter camps.

Located in the Aquatic and Community Centre (ACC), the new area will be referred to as Mini R.E.C. and the programming will include art, ballet, mini jazz, gymnastics and much more.

"We are making an effort to offer more programming that people want for their pre-school age children," states Mayor Mitchell Brownstein in the press release. "By partnering with Le R.E.C. Room, we are enhancing our programs for kids. This partnership will allow for kids programming seven days a week, creating an atmosphere of warmth with young children and families at our city facilities."

There will be more than 30 new classes and birthday packages available as the ACC's space usage is reorganized to accommodate all the programming.

The sports and fitness corridor will be downstairs, closer to the locker rooms, while the area for teens and kids will be upstairs.

"The area will include the new Mini Gym, which is an enclosed, brightly-coloured play area for kids ages 0 to 5," states the press release.

"Some of the table games such as foosball will be brought down to the foyer of the ACC."



Planned recreational room.

Source: CSL



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"The city is working closely with the builder," said Cohen, noting there have been concerns raised by residents on Park Place. There is an effort to keep noise to a minimum, he said. "You can see it if you go by. It's interesting to see how this building is" *continued on p. 14*

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EDITORIAL

Bill 122 threatens local journalism in Quebec

Currently in Quebec, municipalities are required to publish certain kinds of public notices in newspapers. (Many also publish, out of choice, additional ads about certain events, programs and news.) Bill 122, currently before the provincial legislature, would change this situation and give municipalities the *option* to publish notices or simply put them on their websites.

Our bias is obvious. Some of the *Free Press* revenue comes from municipal ads.

Despite this conflict of interest, I wanted to put the issue to our readership: do you want this tradition of transparency to die in Quebec? Public notices frequently go unread, it is true. They are text heavy, legalistic and usually irrelevant to most readers. Often residents, as a matter of law or practicality, have no chance to change the proposal being publicized.

But they also give people notice of things that may affect them: e.g. changes in zoning, news about taxation, notice of public meetings. Yes, under the new law, these would be on municipalities’ websites, but who goes to those sites regularly or to look at public notices? The traffic there is light and likely targetted at answering specific questions (e.g. how do I get such-and-such a permit?). Websites are not a broadcast medium, unlike local newspapers.

Do we want municipal governments acting less publicly or more?

Now some selfish stuff. I have no data about other newspapers’ operations, but I would *guess* across the province that some papers will fold entirely if this law is enacted. I *know* that fewer pages will be published by local papers if this law is enacted, because every paper adds pages in relation to ads sold. If thousands of pages of ads are no longer purchased by municipalities, thousands of pages of content will disappear in the province.

Now it may seem weird to force municipalities to, in effect, support local news-

papers with ads. Local newspapers often criticize municipal mayors and councils, directly (via editorials) or by providing a venue (via letters to the editor). They also sometimes write stories that are unflattering or inconvenient.

But we are seeing in certain countries right now that modern representative democracy is not just about the bare mechanisms of election and the exercise of permitted power. It is also a spirit of openness to a free press, to publicizing inconvenient facts (e.g. by semi-independent government agencies like an auditor general) and to allowing access to information.

Now I am biased, but it seems to me if the level of government (the province) that controls another level (municipalities) forces it to say what it is up to, in advance, in newspapers, that is good for democracy. And if local newspapers can leverage that revenue to offer additional content, as they have for ages in this province, that’s pretty good for democracy too.

And the aggregate price of advertising is immaterial compared to payroll, capital expenditures (e.g. on roads), snow and garbage removal, sports and rec, and other major municipal expenses.

(Please don’t expect web journalism to fill any void. No one has found a way to make the internet work for content at the local level. If they had, why would newspapers pay for printing and distribution, two of their largest costs?)

If you care and feel the same way, please tell your local provincial legislator:

- Kathleen Weil, member for Notre Dame de Grâce, 5252 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, #210, Montreal, QC H4A 3S5
Tel: 514.489.7581 – Fax: 514.489.5426
kweil-nddg@assnat.qc.ca
- David Birnbaum, member for D’Arcy-McGee (including Côte St. Luc and Hampstead) 5800 Cavendish Blvd., #403 Côte St. Luc, QC H4W 2T5
Tel: 514.488.7028 – Fax: 514.488.1713
david.birnbaum.dmg@assnat.qc.ca

If you don’t care, or disagree with us, or if the legislation goes through anyway, you’ll be hearing less from all of us in local journalism, and nothing from some of us.

David Price is the publisher of the Free Press and the Westmount Independent. He is a former investment banker and private equity professional. He has witnessed numerous companies and industries in distress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENERATION WON TWO REFERENDA, LOST ON LANGUAGE – MOVE ON, CSL

I wonder if the Côte St. Luc city council doesn’t misunderstand its mandate. I grew up in and live in NDG, but work in CSL and went to high school there, so I know the community well. While there may be an interest by some in the community to fight the old battles of the 1970s to 1990s about the language of signs – a conflict they are clearly not going to win – I strongly believe the new generation of CSLers has more important battles to fight.

Let’s dedicate energy to making sure our kids are so fluently bilingual that the language of a sign isn’t important and they can have opportunities to thrive in Quebec. Those battles are over and the next generation, those of us who grew up speaking both languages fluently, is raising children who will benefit from being totally bilingual and who will have no interest in the language of a sign because it doesn’t matter anymore.

Those families that stayed have proven we can survive and thrive in Montreal and in Quebec regardless of whether the “*al-lumez vos phares*” sign has a translation or not. As for the tourist argument, year over year, tourism only increases – partly because our French-first reality makes us special.

There is no need to translate the small number of road signs that might be hard to understand not only for that reason, but also for the simple fact that with the near-ubiquitous usage of smartphones and navigation systems, we barely need any words on our signs at all – just the names of streets and the numbers of highway exits. This whole issue is an antiquated argument being fought by a generation that can’t accept the reality that while it won the battle against separatism (twice), it lost the battle on language. It’s time to embrace reality and move on, *ensemble*.

NOAH SIDEL, CONNAUGHT AVE. (NDG)

ENFORCE CDN-NDG’S PARKING PAD BY-LAW

The *Free Press*’ insightful January 17 front-page coverage of unsanctioned driveways underscores a number of important issues facing borough officials who are taking a deceptively passive strategy of tolerating an alarming increase of infringements of the borough’s urban planning legislation, which clearly restricts and prohibits this practice. Our borough is normally legally required to respect and enforce its own planning legislation and by-laws, a public responsibility that it is

currently clearly avoiding. The idea of holding back on the emission of eventual building permits for residents who have built illegal parking spots in their front yards is simply just not enough, if not complacent.

At issue are obvious parking and environmental concerns but also the slow, piecemeal alteration of our exceptional streetscapes, which form a key signature of NDG’s built environment, a distinct and valuable heritage as well as a feature of its real-estate market. What was traditionally a romantic vision of exceptional tree-lined streets and coherent landscaped front yards is rapidly being eroded to accommodate private parking spaces, disrupting the residential character of our streets and creating appalling stretches of unsightly sub-urban-style paved front yards.

This problem, visible on virtually every street in the Monkland village, causes environmental concerns and is clearly at odds with several public policies in an urban area well served by public transit. Our elected officials must act on this issue and establish a proactive and comprehensive strategy combining a public awareness campaign as well as a new program and incentives encouraging property owners to reverse these illegal practices, often carried out on the public domain. The Cope-man administration is invited to show leadership and address this issue in a decisive and timely way.

NDG’s exceptional urban environment and quality of life would decidedly benefit from such a long-term planning approach.

PIERRE BOUCHER, MELROSE AVE. (NDG)
& RETIRED CITY OF MONTREAL URBAN PLANNER AND DESIGNER

SCRAP CDN-NDG’S PARKING PAD BY-LAW

Unfortunately, the sage adage of “when everyone keeps breaking the law, the law is broken” applies to your lead story in the January 17 edition (“Unsanctioned driveways could be issue when seeking building permits”). The fact is these many and varied unauthorized parking spaces cropping up through the borough violate both article #15 (98-049) as well as article #30 (subsection 6) of the “Revised By-laws of the City of Montreal.” Therefore, the issue is not that at some future and unspecified date some homeowners may encounter difficulties with building permits, the central concern must be why local police and/or borough officers are refusing to enforce these specific by-laws? Both of these laws clearly state that driving any vehicle over a sidewalk without an authorized “cut- continued on p. 13

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Letters, cont'd. from p. 12

out” is illegal and worthy of a fine.

According to an official SPVM reply dated March 2016, no tickets had been issued for infractions related to these by-laws between the period of January to June 2015; in other words, the police are not enforcing these legitimate by-laws, nor are borough officials apparently monitoring the violation of city regulations.

One has to assume that all borough by-laws were vetted, scrutinized, and adopted after due consideration. Our many and varied by-laws supposedly make our lives as citizens better and provide a common umbrella of security. However, it is also quite clear that far too many rules exist that are no longer applicable and have outlived whatever useful purpose had been the original intent.

It is time for the borough to recognize what the good citizens are actively demonstrating by openly violating these two by-laws. That is, citizens want relief from obsolete parking and traffic regulations that interfere with a modicum of reasonable residential life for certain areas of the borough. Instead of chiding citizens for attempting to improve their lifestyles, borough elected and non-elected officials should take what is happening on the ground as a strong indication that immediate remedial action is needed. Scrap arcane and non-enforced by-laws, and enact and enforce those that respect the wishes of citizens!

JON BRADLEY, ROYAL AVE. (NDG)

CDN-NDG SHORT ON SALT, BUT NOT EXCUSES

I wish I had taken a picture. The light turned green and there just wasn't time.

A kid of about 10 years old had just crossed the street in front of me. He stepped onto the sidewalk at the northeast corner of Queen Mary and Clanranald – and boom – he slipped and fell on the terribly icy sidewalk beneath him. He took a few seconds to fret, then picked himself up almost as fast as he went down, and continued on his way up the treacherous slope popularly known as Queen Mary Rd. I can't tell you if he cried out when he fell down. My car windows were shut, and my defroster was on high.

It's 8:10 Tuesday morning, January 24 in Montreal. I'm parked outside the NDG pool writing this letter. The sidewalk is too icy so I'm skipping this morning's swim. I'm wearing my Helly Hansen winter boots, which typically offer good traction. But not today. It's minus 3 degrees with freezing rain and the streets and sidewalks in the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG are slippery as heck.

On my way to the pool, I saw a big heavy garbage truck turn eastbound from Grand onto Somerled. Its front wheels were turned into the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street, as its rear end slid out into the opposite direction. The image was discombobulating. I backed the car up about ten feet and turned left one street before Grand. I wanted no part of this.

I passed through several roads in Hampstead before re-entering the borough. Interestingly, the roads and sidewalks there were well salted and easy to transverse.

Nothing of the sort could be said for the borough. Shame on you CDN-NDG for being so thoughtless and irresponsible.

If not for me, or the brave men picking up your garbage, what about the children? What about the children.

ROBERT MILLER, EARNESCLIFFE
(SNOWDON)

THANKS TO FOUR MORE SUPPORTERS

Thanks to our four new well-wishers. Every letter helps us with advertisers, without whom there would be no paper.

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

CARRYING ON MONITOR TRADITION

I just wanted you to know that I greatly admire your newspaper, the *Free Press*. Not only do you offer excellent journalism (special plaudits to Isaac Olson) and pretty good reporting of local issues, arts, entertainment *et al*, but you also offer more.

NDG is the home to many people (perhaps 30 percent) on very low incomes and many are not able to afford paid newspaper delivery.

There are other free newspapers, such as *24*, given away at Metro stations but there are no Metro stations west of Decarie. Effectively, unless we were to consider *The Suburban* as a news vehicle (unlikely in the least), you offer the only Free (Press) option for actual, unbiased, local print news and information. As city councillor for Loyola district, I have had many residents express their appreciation for your newspaper, especially those living on low incomes. Certainly, your local news reporting is better than anyone is going to get on local TV.

In the past, the *NDG Monitor* was recognized as the most important community newspaper in Canada. I believe that you can proudly proclaim to continue this great tradition of public service and serious passing on of the news and local information to the public

JEREMY SEARLE, CITY COUNCILLOR
FOR LOYOLA DISTRICT

Côte St. Luc prepares for worst

Councillor Glenn Nashen and Mayor Mitchell Brownstein (right) with a copy of the city's newly updated Emergency Preparedness Plan that the council approved on January 23 during the monthly council meeting. Most of the plan can be found on the city's website. The plan addresses risks such as terrorist attacks, major fires, terrorist activity, contaminated water supply and more. The complex, detailed plan is loaded with information and advice for the average citizen.

Photo: Isaac Olson

READ FREE PRESS FROM FRONT TO BACK

I just enjoyed reading the November 15 edition of the *Free Press*, and – like every issue – read the entire paper from front to back. It is my only paper news source – all the other news I get is digital, with national advertisers.

I look forward to receiving the *Free Press*, as it is my best source of news on what is happening in my neighbourhood. The constraints of work and raising a young family prevent me from being able to take part in all of the excellent activities in our community, from hearing about all the business openings or changes in our centres, and from attending all of the city council and association meetings going on each week. The *Free Press* reporters are our eyes and ears on the ground – and NDG, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc are richer for it.

Some of my favourite reporting in the last few months has been around the Monkland Merchant Association and MVP, and on our city council meetings. This type of news would be unlikely to appear in any other source. I encourage the *Free Press* to investigate further into the activities of associations, charities and the city council, as well as to increase the frequency of articles on new businesses openings in the area.

To the advertisers who support the *Free*

Press – I thank you. I also see your latest news each week!

ROBERT EISER,
MACMAHON AVE. (NDG)

MOST SIGNIFICANT TIE TO COMMUNITY

I discovered the *Free Press* only relatively recently but find it to be an invaluable resource of local occurrences. In effect, your paper is the most significant tie that I have to my local community (beyond my immediate neighbours) so I make sure to peruse each issue cover to cover. It really makes me feel part of something larger than my household.

For what it's worth, I take note of the ads and have already discovered two new renovation suppliers as a result.

Keep up the good work.

R. HANDA (HAMPSTEAD)

AMAZING JOB, INCLUDING NEWS/AD RATIO

I think your paper does an amazing job covering news in the community of NDG and surroundings. In particular, I find Isaac Olson's coverage of borough and city council meetings is very valuable. And finally, I find the news/ad ratio very good as well. I do like to see first what local business I can go to whenever possible.

Thanks and keep up the good work.

DEANNE DELANEY (NDG)



JACK EDERY

TOWN WITH
A VIEW

I confess. As the Hampstead councillor in charge of finance, I use fake debt, I spend other people’s money, I hide money and I grab as much as I can, whenever I can. Before having me arrested, let me explain.

The “fake debt” that we have on our books is due to the way Quebec pays us grant money. Quebec requires us to bor-

Library, cont'd. from p. 11
coming along.”

Calls answered

Councillor Glenn Nashen said the city’s volunteer emergency medical services responded to 2,812 calls in 2016. Volunteers provided more than 20,000 hours of service to the community, he said.

The city’s vCOPs logged more than 7,000 volunteer hours, said Nashen, calling it an “absolutely incredible number.” The vCOPs continue to have “great interactions” with the community.

The city’s Public Security force answered 2,687 calls beyond their regular patrols,

Confessions of a finance councillor

row the amount of the grant, then it pays us the principal and interest portions of that borrowing for the life of the loan. So, on our books, it’s listed as debt, but I consider this “fake debt” as it has no impact on our cash flow needs. Our real debt, money we actually need to pay back, over the last two mandates has been cut from \$12.5 million to \$6.6 million.

Using other people’s money is great. Every time we do roads and sewer rehab, we make sure to position it in such a way that

said Nashen, where they issued 8,500 parking tickets.

“This is my annual reminder to residents that each one of those tickets is totally avoidable,” said Nashen. “Don’t park in emergency zones or where there is no parking like a fire lane and no ticket will be issued.”

Leboeuf’s death acknowledged

Claude Leboeuf has lost his battle to cancer, announced Mayor Mitchell Brownstein. Leboeuf worked in the city’s printing department.

“We extend our condolences to his entire family,” said Brownstein.

we maximize funding from the federal and provincial governments. For every dollar we pay, they pay another two dollars. If something has to be done, then we would prefer to leverage our money 2-to-1 to get it done.

Hiding money is fun and profitable. When North America was hit with the ash borer infestation, we knew that eventually all of our ash trees would be killed. Having extra cash available, we set up a reserve fund where we froze enough funds to cover eventually having to cut down and replace every town-owned ash tree in Hampstead. The money is “hidden” because when it is in a reserve fund, it does not show up as surplus. Surpluses, I find, are hard not to spend. So I prefer to hide the money for what I know will be an eventual expense.

Grabbing money whenever I can get my hands on it is one of my favourite transgressions. In the past few years, we have been fortunate to have high surpluses, resulting in part from the sale of the fire station, strong transfer taxes and tighter control on spending. Rather than build a large accumulated surplus, which would generate very little interest, I grab as much as my mayor will allow (\$2 million since 2013) and use it for accelerated pay-down of our long-term debt. The net result is lower annual financing costs and a stronger balance sheet.

Confession, it is said, is good for the soul. Feeling so unburdened, I am ready to get back to my old transgressions and perhaps add some new ones for 2017.

Jack Edery is a Hampstead town councillor in charge of the Finance portfolio.

Man known to police for breaking into cars was arrested



POLICE REPORT

STATION 11

The following news stories are based on information from police reports provided by a Station 9 constable in an interview with the reporter.

A man well-known to police and suspected of breaking into cars in recent months has been arrested for breaking the conditions of his release, according to Station 9 constable Marie-Christine Nobert.

It was about 15 minutes after midnight on a Côte St. Luc street when neighbours noticed a man walking slowly around parked cars, looking in windows and acting suspiciously. Those neighbours called police and, Nobert explained, officers were quick to respond.

A 34-year-old white male was found in the area, she said. He is well-known to police for breaking into cars, she explained, and, in fact, officers have been on the lookout for him as there has been a recent spike in car break-ins in the city. He was suspected as being the main reason behind that spike, she said.

The man has already been arrested for car break-ins and was out on conditional release. Those conditions included a curfew and police arrested him for violating those conditions.

The arresting officers, she noted, were constables Sophie Couillard and Karl Charon.

Nobert says residents can rest a little

easier knowing this man has been arrested, but that does not mean that people should leave valuables in their cars. She said anything, be it spare change or a forgotten gym bag, can attract car burglars who will break a window just to steal a handful of coins. It is important, she said, that people secure their vehicles and not leave anything in sight that might tempt a burglar to break in. – Isaac Olson


Dogs allowed in six CSL parks

According to Councillor Glenn Nashen, a pilot project was launched in December that allows leashed dogs in six Côte St. Luc parks and several green spaces.

Whenever they are in public with their animals, dog owners must leash their dogs, have up-to-date dog tags properly displayed and scoop up after their dogs.

On his blog, Nashen writes, “The parks or green spaces that now allow leashed dogs include Aaron Hart Park along David Lewis St., Harold Greenspon Park on Borden Ave., the green space between Marc Chagall Ave. and the parking lot of the Bernard Lang Civic Centre, the green space on Bailly Rd. between Northluc and Cavendish, the green space on Bailly Rd. between Lyndale and Glencrest, and a section of Kirwan Park between Blossom and Wentworth.”

Ville de



City of

Côte Saint-Luc

www.cotesaintluc.org

<p>OBJET : Entrée en vigueur du règlement 2477</p> <p>Avis public est donné par le soussigné, greffier, Me. Jonathan Shecter, que le conseil municipal de Côte Saint-Luc, à sa séance ordinaire du 23 janvier 2017, a adopté le règlement numéro 2477 suivant :</p> <p>«Règlement 2477 établissant la grille tarifaire pour les activités culturelles, sportives, et récréatives pour le printemps et l’été 2017»</p> <p>L’objet du règlement est d’établir la grille tarifaire pour les activités culturelles, sportives, et récréatives pour le printemps et l’été 2017.</p> <p>Ce règlement est disponible pour consultation à l’Hôtel de Ville situé au 5801, boulevard Cavendish durant les heures normales de bureau, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.</p> <p>Ce règlement entre en vigueur la date de sa publication.</p> <p>DONNÉ à Côte Saint-Luc, ce 31 janvier 2017.</p> <p>Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. Greffier</p> <p>Pour plus d’information veuillez me contacter au 514-485-6800 ou à jshecter@cotesaintluc.org</p>	<p>OBJECT: Coming into force of by-law 2477</p> <p>Public Notice is given by the Undersigned, Maître Jonathan Shecter, City Clerk, that the following by-law numbered 2477 was adopted by the Côte Saint-Luc City Council at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 23, 2017:</p> <p>“By-law 2477 creating the fee schedule for cultural, sports and leisure activities for the spring and summer of 2017”</p> <p>The object of the by-law is to create the fee schedule for cultural, sports and leisure activities for the spring and summer of 2017.</p> <p>This by-law may be consulted at the City Hall located at 5801 Cavendish Boulevard during regular office hours, said hours being Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>This by-law comes into force on the date of its publication.</p> <p>GIVEN at Côte Saint-Luc, on this 31st day of January 2017.</p> <p>Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. City Clerk</p> <p>For more information, please contact me at 514-485-6800 or at jshecter@cotesaintluc.org</p>
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January 16 town meeting

Fixing potholed Ellerdale Rd. needs agglomeration cooperation

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With winter still bearing down upon the region of Montreal and roadways becoming increasingly potholed, the town of Hampstead faces a dilemma with regards to repairing one of its most travelled and worn streets – Ellerdale Rd.

In a message to Hampsteaders posted last summer on the town's website, Mayor Bill Steinberg acknowledged that Ellerdale "is, by far, the worst road in Hampstead."

However, repairing it is proving to be more difficult than it ordinarily would be, because a water main located beneath Ellerdale also needs fixing, but is the responsibility of the Montreal agglomeration.

Although Ellerdale had initially been scheduled to be rebuilt last year, the unresolved issue over responsibility for the water main stopped the work from going ahead.

"My understanding is that Montreal intends to repair the water main," Steinberg said in an interview with the *Free Press* following the January 16 Hampstead town

council meeting.

"We don't have a firm date as to when that's going to happen," he added. "But I would guess that it will be this year or next year. It's Montreal who will make that decision. And if not this summer, then maybe next summer."

Public security report

In a report on public security delivered by Councillor Harvey Shaffer during the same meeting, Shaffer reported that during the previous month a break-in took place at a dwelling on Dufferin Rd. According to Shaffer, the perpetrator used a barbecue that had been left outside to climb on and enter the house through a rear window.

As well, an attempted break-in took place on Dec. 15 on Glenmore Rd. using the same *modus operandi*. On the same date, two white males described as being in their early 20s were spotted by Public Security officers near Ellerdale and Stratford roads attempting a theft within a vehicle. According to the security report, PSO Schaap followed and intercepted them, af-



Hampstead is waiting for word from the Montreal agglomeration before taking action to do a thorough repair job on potholed Ellerdale Rd., as seen on January 26.

ter which the Montreal police was contacted.

Accidents

Motor vehicle accidents were also reported. One, without injuries, took place on December 12 at Heath and Cressy roads

where a motorist lost control during icy road conditions. A second which was described as a fender bender occurred at Holtham and Côte St. Luc roads on December 17, again with no injuries. A third took place also on December 17 outside 5579 Queen Mary Rd. when a vehicle hit a lamp post.

The security report, which was prepared by Hampstead Public Security commander Pietro Poletti, concluded with a quote suggesting the author has a penchant for poetry. "For last year's words belong to last year's language/And next year's words await another voice," it said, citing "Four Quartets" by T.S. Eliot.

High-volume water users

In a report on financial issues, Councillor Jack Edery said the town has begun sending out letters to recurrent users of large quantities of water in Hampstead to advise them of it "and to be able to start a conversation with them to detect any problem that they might have. They might have leaks, whatever. That might be the reason they are recurrent high water users."

Steinberg to run again for mayor in November election

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After almost 12 years as mayor of Hampstead, Mayor William Steinberg says he'll be a candidate once again for the town's top elected position in next November's municipal election.

"I think we've accomplished an awful lot – I've very happy and very proud," he said in a scrum with journalists following the January 16 town council meeting.

"But I also think there are significant challenges ahead for the next four years, and I would like to see quite a bit of additional progress over the next four years in

areas like improved services.

"With a new demographic, more and more seniors, my age group, baby boomers, are moving out and more young families are moving in," added Steinberg. "And I would like to see that we have more for those young families. That's one thing that I hope to see in the next four years."

Another thing Steinberg suggested he'd like to see would be more successful programs like eHampstead, the town's news and information portal that allows residents to set up a password-protected profile in order to receive town hall news, register for recreational activities and file for

permits.

"... our online capabilities are something that, yes, the new demographic wants. But not only – all age groups."

As for some of his administration's accomplishments, Steinberg stands by his record. "I think it's a trademark of this administration that local tax increases will not exceed inflation," he said. "It's been a decade now and I can certainly say that if I'm re-elected it will certainly continue for the next four years. That's a firm commitment. So whatever else we do, that is cast in stone."

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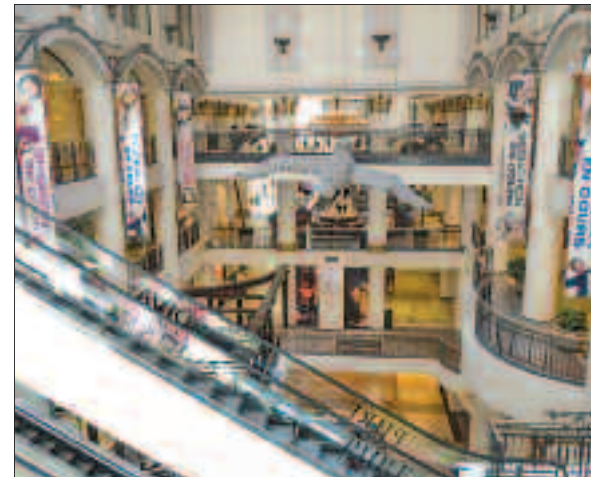
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St. Columba, cont'd. from p. 2

chance of seeing the establishment of a 'Chabad' ghetto in the neighborhood. Ghettos can create tension with other residents of the neighbourhood. We have several examples in Outremont. But all this is just speculation."

The *Free Press* was unable to confirm if Paul Diacon is a resident or an online alias. The writer used a Yahoo account (allndg@yahoo.com). Aside from a few obscure matches globally, the name does not show up in internet searches and asking for more information about him was futile.

When asked for name verification and an interview by email, Diacon replied without verifying his name. He stated that the email in question was sent privately to "several" residents in the area.

"Someone else forwarded this email to the owners of St. Columba's Church and the *Free Press*.

"This email is of a private nature and is not intended to be made public by posting it in a newspaper," Diacon wrote in French. "I do not authorize you to publish this email, or excerpts from this email, in your newspaper."

Further questions sent to Diacon were not replied to. The "ghetto" email has been published on social media by Jewish organizations, sent to city officials and circu-

lated to over 60 people.

Anger in the neighbourhood

Diacon's email sparked a strongly worded response from a survivor of European ghettos under Nazi occupation.

Fishel Goldig wrote in the same email chain as Bird, "The only ghetto that I am familiar with and remember very clearly was one of enslavement, of death and destruction." Goldig praises the Chabad NDG for hosting open, interfaith events and describes Diacon's comments as an "ignorance, bigotry and prejudice."

Goldig concludes, "The citizens of NDG want to live in freedom, democracy and respect for one another."

Developer responds

Blatt declined to reply to the darker implications of Diacon's email, though he did encourage residents to contact developers should there be any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Blatt concluded, "We are certain that residents do not wish the building to remain vacant. We also recognize that we did fully consider the concerns and comments of residents when we proposed a partial redevelopment of the project this past year."

Residents wishing to contact the developer can call 514.613.1080 or email: comments@4020hingston.com.

Loeb celebrates Canada's 150th by painting the country 150 kilometers at a time

By ISAAC OLSON

Carol Loeb was riding in the car one day when she heard a radio announcer ask, "What are you doing for Canada's 150th?" From there, an idea was born and since then she has been taking lengthy road trips to paint whatever scene inspires her.

Carol Loeb, an NDG resident, teamed up with Alison Grapes to travel coast to coast along the Trans-Canada Highway from St. John's to Victoria, stopping every 150 kilometers to find an inspirational subject to paint. So far, some 21 paintings have been completed with stops in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The highway is 7,493 kilometers long, which means the final series will total 51 paintings by each artist.

Friends since grade school, the two artists soon found out that you can't just stop on the highway to carefully inspect the landscape for artistic inspiration. Loeb, an art teacher at Lower Canada College, said photos, sketches and handwritten notes have become key to creating this project as the artists can only stop or slow down for short periods of time to scan their surroundings.

"Some images are of the road itself, some are of the countryside and life along the road, and some have not yet been imagined," states the artists' website. "Join us in our journey through this blog, and join us at the series of exhibitions planned for the finished artworks during 2017, 2018, and 2019. As art teachers, we plan to give back to programs that help develop young people's passion for the visual arts through donation of a portion of sales at our opening exhibition [in Toronto] around Canada Day, July 1, 2017."

Eager to get back on the road this coming July, Loeb said "It is so much fun. You get to see Canada very differently."

Loeb has lived abroad for over a decade and that experience impacted her appreciation of Canadian life. Sometimes people get caught up in the negatives, she said, but Canada really is an amazing place.

"You appreciate what you have," said Loeb. "That and I truly believe that you need challenges and goals in your life that expand who you are and you grow."

For more information about Loeb's adventure and her plan to include other artists, visit: transcan150xtwo.weebly.com

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