

WMA hosts panel discussion on transportation issues

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Some 80 people assembled to listen to a “transportation roundtable” organized by the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) November 10 at Victoria Hall.

WMA president Paul Marriott opened the evening meeting and introduced the moderator, Professor Ahmed El Geneidy, who was assisted by a number of his students from McGill’s School of Urban Planning. The panel was composed of Marc Garneau, member of parliament for NDG-

Westmount and federal Transport minister; Marvin Rotrand, Snowdon city councillor and vice chair of the STM; city councillor Peter McQueen, city councillor for NDG; Marc-André Gadoury, responsible for active transportation for the city of Montreal; and Catherine Blanchette-Dallaire, founder of OnRoule.org.

Panelists detailed their priorities, with Garneau stating the federal Liberals’ main long-term transportation themes including “the traveller experience,” safety, automated and connected zero emissions vehicles, transportation corridors focused on trade routes and the recently announced coastlines and marine safety initiatives.

Dallaire-Blanchet talked about her personal experience following an accident that badly injured her ankles, which focused her efforts to improve accessibility and public transportation for the handicapped and those pushing strollers.

McQueen talked about the projects to improve access to the new MUHC facilities, saying that these would take four years to implement. He also discussed the challenges of improving rail access to the airport.

Gadoury spoke about how excited he was to be designated responsible for cycling in Montreal, and Montreal mayor



About 80 people gathered at Victoria Hall November 10 to listen to a panel organized by the Westmount Municipal Association to discuss transportation issues. Sitting at the presenters’ table, from left: Marvin Rotrand, Marc-André Gadoury, Peter McQueen, Marc Garneau and Catherine Dallaire-Blanchet. At the podium was moderator Ahmed El Geneidy.

Denis Coderre’s commitment to “Vision Zero,” measures to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Rotrand was welcomed with a cheer as he explained his desire to integrate transportation across party lines. He also spoke about the importance of integrating transportation technologies across borders and that Montreal would host a global public

transport summit in May 2017. Rotrand talked about his enthusiasm for the extension eastwards of the Metro’s blue line and the importance of Quebec investing more money in the Société de Transports de Montréal.

Westmount mayor Peter Trent and a number of council members attended.

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Comin’ Up

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Westmount Healthy City Project and the Westmount Public Library present *The Human Scale* by filmmaker Andreas Dalsgaard, 7 pm at the library. Free.

NDG Food Depot, located just west of Westmount, celebrates its 30th anniversary with an open house event, including food and music, 12 pm to 7 pm at 2146 Marlowe Ave. Info: 514.483.4680 or depot.ndg.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

The Temple Art Hive is a drop-in program, 4 to 7 pm on Thursdays twice a month at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 210 or rachel@templemontreal.ca.

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, Jenny Bruce gives an illustrated presentation on the “Scottish Diaspora Tapestry,” 12:30 pm. Free.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Dramatis Personae’s new production *Smoke and Mirrors* in the lodge room of Victoria Hall, 7:30 pm. Also, Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 pm; Sunday, December 4 at 2 pm; and Monday, December 5 at 8 pm. Admission is by suggested \$10 donation. Reserve: www.theatrewestmount.com.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

City council meeting, 8 pm.

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