

## Packer, 10, plays at Carnegie Hall

## Hampstead news

## Brownstein resigns, to run

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Mayor writes on new snow removal regulations, p. 10

Hampstead Happenings, p. 11



To run for mayor and ensure voters only go to the polls once, Côte St. Luc city councillor Mitchell Brownstein made his resignation official at the February 8 council meeting. See p. 8. Photo: Isaac Olson.

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# FREE PRESS

NDG  
Hampstead  
Côte St. Luc

## Beaumont NDG redesigned to appeal to customer demand

BY ISAAC OLSON

Le Beaumont NDG, a supermarket and condominium project planned for Côte St. Luc Rd. just north of the Girouard Ave. intersection, is moving forward after the developer behind the project redesigned the plans in an effort to meet customer demand.

Benoit Marion, sales director for Dev-McGill, admits the original design, with its two towers and triangular shape, wasn't selling as hoped. While other developers may have thrown in the towel given the costs of redesigning such a large-scale building, he said planners went back to

the drawing board to create a more L-shaped structure with a squared-off interior that better appeals to demand. Dev-McGill, he said, believes so strongly in the location and the potential of this project, that the company listened closely to customers' concerns and responded with a new design.

"If you look at my old building," began Marion, pointing to his original design – the some \$40-million project that convinced the council to amend the zoning in February 2014 – "there were a lot of angles in my old concept and that makes floor plans not as efficient in terms of square footage. *continued on p. 10*

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Motion encouraging Decarie Blvd. improvements passes  
STM says Decarie bus lane not feasible, Rotrand pushes for light reconfiguration

By Isaac Olson

On February 15, the borough council unanimously approved a motion, presented by councillors Peter McQueen and Jeremy Searle, demanding infrastructural improvements along NDG’s busiest bus route, the 105.

At this point, buses are continually backing up on Decarie Blvd., especially when heading north and trying to turn west on Sherbrooke St. The 105 bus, which carries some 15,000 passengers a day, has a reserved lane on Sherbrooke during rush hour, but not on Decarie Blvd. McQueen and Searle want to see something done about this. However, those improvements won’t likely include an extension of the reserved bus lane as the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) has said it is not feasible.

However, the public transportation agency’s vice president, Snowdon councillor Marvin Rotrand, says improvements to the traffic lights along that Decarie corridor are needed. He successfully requested an amendment to the motion during the meeting because, he said during a later interview, as written, the STM was

opposed to the part of the motion that dealt with “councillors essentially telling engineers that they don’t know what they’re talking about.”

The borough’s preliminary analysis has found the STM’s studies to be conclusive, said Rotrand, that a bus lane along the Decarie Blvd. stretch between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke “just wouldn’t work.” Rotrand amended the motion to ensure that there is “the correct sort of language that everybody can agree with.”

Rotrand said the STM was already looking into this issue before McQueen put forward the motion. Rotrand said he agrees the bus lane should be extended from West Broadway St. to the Elmhurst terminal, as requested. However, the STM has said the traffic lights at both de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke St. need to be optimized to ensure buses can more freely pass. As it is, the needed left-hand turns at Sherbrooke westbound and de Maisonneuve eastbound would require buses to cross over lanes of traffic were there a reserved bus lane, Rotrand noted.

“This is an important piece of transportation infrastructure obviously in NDG, but even citywide and it should be looked

at very closely,” said McQueen during the meeting. He questioned the need for the traffic lights that buses have on Cavendish Blvd. when it has less traffic than the Decarie-to-Sherbrooke route.

“In the meantime, here we have a problem. The 105, right now, everybody knows, all the drivers know, there’s always a traffic jam driving up Decarie Blvd. to Sherbrooke. Obviously, we all hope that when the new St. Jacques bridge is built and the new entrance ramp opens, the situation will improve, but that’s a minimum of two years away.”

The STM knows there’s a problem there, because buses are being redirected to Claremont Ave., but that means people waiting at the bus stop on Decarie Blvd. may miss the bus, said McQueen.

His motion is an official call for improvements to the situation in order to ensure buses can more easily traverse Decarie Blvd., even if it involved removing street-side parking during daytime hours when there are rarely cars parked along that stretch of road, he said.

In a later email, McQueen stated, “It looks like the west side (for buses going east to Vendôme) is more tricky indeed

because the buses need to get in the left lane to turn left, and we don’t want them blocking the heavy traffic to the hospital in the morning. And we accept that (both Jeremy and me) because this direction is less of a problem anyways. As for the east side of Decarie in the afternoon (...), it looks like everybody agrees that it is a problem that is delaying and detouring buses so we have all agreed to look at it seriously in the coming months to see what can be done.”

Searle, speaking during the meeting, said he has studied the situation carefully and removing the daytime, street-side parking wouldn’t have a serious impact as it is not heavily used.

“On the east side of Decarie, between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke St., there are never, ever more than 13 cars parked, ever,” said Searle. “Over my eight-week study, the reserved parking, zone 78 and 35, nobody is ever parked there. It is simply an empty space and it could be part of the bus lane. One time, over an eight-week study period, one automobile with a permit was parked there. Another time, it was somebody without a permit. Any other study will confirm my results.”



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# Health-focused by-law draws ire, praise before council unanimously approves

BY ISAAC OLSON

Before the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough council unanimously approved amendments to a health-focused by-law during the February 15 borough council meeting, several Tim Hortons representatives took to the microphone with concerns about rules that limit the growth of “fast food” enterprises within the city.

Almost as if it was an organized response to the naysayers, an equal number of local non-profit organization representatives also took to the microphone to praise the new by-law amendments.

Several noted the fact that the by-law amendment is unique to the province and serves as an example as to how municipalities can use local laws to encourage a healthier population. While it is rare that people attend meetings to show support for soon-to-be-passed policies, proponents touted the by-law's potential impact not just on the health of Montreal citizens, but also the environment.

At least 15 people signed up to ask questions about the health by-law though time requirements limited the number of people who got a chance to speak.

“We’re here to support and applaud the borough for its new urban planning by-law,” began Nicole Fomelli, representing the NDG Community Council, Jeunesse en santé NDG and the NDG Food Coalition. “This by-law promotes healthy eating and healthy lifestyles, which contribute to the overall health of individuals, families and communities.”

Fomelli went through several points of the by-law, noting that one out of every six children in Canada is food insecure as they don’t have access to fresh, healthy or “culturally appropriate” food due to issues like location and price. She said healthy eating has a direct impact on health and, therefore, it is a food security issue.

Councillor Peter McQueen, representing NDG district, thanked Fomelli for tak-



James Grégoire addresses the borough council on February 15.

ing the time to express her support for the initiative. He noted others, such as those involved with schools, also support the measure.

The new by-law calls for the doubling of bike parking around new construction, reduces the number of minimum parking spaces near Metro stations, authorizes the opening of fitness centres in more parts of the borough and promotes the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables by encouraging community gardens, farmers’ markets and the like. It encourages carpooling, and local business growth. The by-law also takes aim at heat islands by doubling the number of trees required on residential properties and requiring pale-coloured roofing.

The measure that is cooking up controversy is that which limits where fast-food businesses can set up shop, restricting new construction to places like St. Jacques St. between Benny Ave. and West Broadway St. Fast food is defined by counter service and plastic utensils, not the menu – this point was clarified during the meeting when restaurateurs challenged zoning policies that discriminate against food choices as there are provincial laws against that. Several opponents took to the microphone to bash a proposal that, they say, will limit the opportunity of employers to set up businesses, hire locals and pay taxes.

James Grégoire, representing Tim Horton’s, was one of several people who chal-

lenged the by-law. He asked if the borough surveyed the population before moving forward with the amendment. Opponents like Grégoire said restaurants that fall into this category employ teens and train them for later work while giving jobs to local adults as well. The companies pay taxes and provide a service to residents. This by-law, they say, will limit the reach and positive impact restaurants like Tim Horton’s can have on the economy and population.

Snowdon councillor Marvin Rotrand said he would like to see more done, such as requiring restaurants to post the nutri-

tional information with the offered menu – a measure that is going national in the United States.

Rotrand said current restaurateurs will continue to hold rights in allowing them to operate their businesses unchecked as the by-law impacts new construction only. There will continue to be locations to build new restaurants, he noted.

“I am confident that the borough council has done its work properly,” said Rotrand. “There was a public consultation and there have been no requests for a referendum from the population.”

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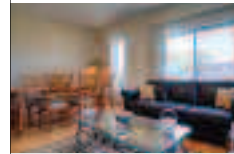


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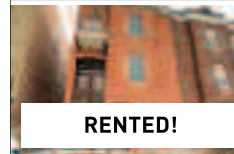
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT HONEST ABOUT CHABAD AT ST. COLUMBA

I have been watching the drama unfold surrounding the St. Columba Church redevelopment and I would like to offer my two cents. I have a personal connection to the church; my grandmother, Marjorie Watt, was a member there.

Three years ago, Chabad, a Jewish religious group, bought\* the premises under the auspices of using it as a cultural centre. This was by express demand of the Anglican church parish, and by all accounts the reason why they sold\* it to Chabad and not a developer in the first place. That the group thereafter made an about-face, used only the secondary building and are going to tear down the worship hall to put in high end, gentrified townhouses in its place, is sad and unbelievably crass.

My disgust does not end there. Isaac Olson has written pieces that largely favour the development of the project. For example, Sheryl Beller is a person Olson brings up consistently in his articles and introduces her as “an NDG resident” who is for the project in the neighborhood, thus showing that a segment of the population approves the development. What he fails to mention is that not only is Sheryl Beller no ordinary NDG resident, she is a member of Chabad, the group implicit in the development, but also the chief operating

officer\*\* of said group and the one who started the procedure in the first place to buy the property for Chabad!

Finally, I have issue with what Mr. McQueen has said about the Anglican community having little to do with NDG heritage. It is not only nonsense, it is insensitive as well to NDGers of Anglican extraction, like my family, who are hardworking and historic members of the community.

TOM WATT, MELROSE AVE.

**Editor’s notes.** \*According to Rabbi Yisroel Bernath of Chabad NDG and our original coverage (Sept. 24, 2013, p. 1), the group did not buy the building and does not own it. It has always been owned by developers, who rent the parish hall to Chabad. The plan is for Chabad NDG to eventually buy the hall from them.

\*\*Also according to Rabbi Bernath, while Sheryl Beller is an active member of the group who was very active for an eight-month period last year, she had and has “no official capacity.” – DP

BLACK COALITION’S PHILIP ‘DOESN’T GET IT’

In response to the interview (February 9, p. 10) Isaac Olson had with Dan Philip, president of the Black Coalition, as he called his organization, I can tell all people of NDG, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc, this was a disaster in that this has been the kind of leadership provided for the Eng-

lish-speaking West Indian community across the board as to why we have not made any advances.

This is an appeal to the broader community that we need all the help we can get even to keep pace in this changing society, never mind a changing world.

Philip and his friends just don’t get it.

JOE DYETT, PRESIDENT – WEST INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

OPEN NEW LIBRARY EARLIER

The long-awaited new municipal library at Benny and Monkland is not set to open until noon weekdays. There should be morning hours at least two days per week to allow for a variety of schedules. Fre-

quent users of a public library, including retired people, post-secondary students and small children still at home or in day-care shouldn’t have to wait until after 12 noon to go to the library. Young children in particular – who so greatly benefit from books, storytelling and the general discovery that libraries offer and who often nap after lunch – may miss out completely with the current proposed hours. Please call 311 and use the file number 166543 to add your voice to those who want earlier opening hours.

KRISTIN MCNEILL, GRAND BLVD.

**Editor’s note:** Kristin McNeill is the editor of the Free Press’ sister paper, the Westmount Independent. – DP

Actor takes on many characters with vocal versatility



NANCY SNIPPER  
ARTSY  
SNIPPETS

Alyson Leah has a peculiar talent. Aside from being a professional actor, she makes her voice turn into dozens of different characters for radio, animation and stage.

Her ordinary voice, which is both mellifluous and earthy, completely changes as she morphs into various characters, and she’s also a singer in musical theatre where her honey sweet range soars into soprano register and dips into low tones.

On the international cartoon TV series, *Arthur*, she plays three-year-old Vicita.

“It’s fun doing her because I’ve been doing Vicita since I was ten years old, and I have to maintain the same voice that I used as a ten-year-old to play a three-year-old. I’m presently 25 years old. I’m still called upon to play her. The series is in its 19th season.”

She was the teenage gal voice for many radio commercials, including an SAQ commercial that played forever. She also played a spoilt university student for Nissan and an adolescent for Bell.

The most recent one is for a Fujitsu heat pump. “My title is ‘annoying teenage girl.’ In that commercial, I keep complaining about how hot I am, and my voice gets whinier and whinier.”

Having graduated from Bishop’s University, the NDG actor’s favourite haunt is the stage. “I love all forms of acting, but theatre has always been my strongest passion. I love playing comedy and character roles – any kind of role where I can be challenged in some fun way.”



To date, she has performed in *Godspell*, singing her heart at the Centaur, and in its lobby – performed the leading female role in an independent children’s musical, called *Don’t Touch the Glutch*.

“I thought this was a worthy play to participate in, as it addressed issues about bullying, and I love doing children’s theatre. They really respond.”

She’s performed as a Bond girl spy in the play *Done to Death* at MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels), and doubled as a twenty-year-old ingénue – a mime part.

In *The Clawfoot and Hot Tub interviews* – the first play she ever co-produced – she played five different highly eccentric roles ranging in age from 25 to 40.

She also produced the play *Boy Meets Girl: A Young Love Story* for this year’s Fringe Festival. It was directed by former NDGer Sarit Klein. She played Katie in this two-character show.

“It’s about two five-year-olds in love with one another, but we act as adults. The dialogue reveals our age. We say things kids would say. I talk about selling Girl Scout cookies, napping with other boys and basically show my precocious nature.”

Not only does she have a golden talent, she has a heart of gold. She organized and sang in an amazing musical theatre fund raiser for ovarian cancer – a production paying tribute to her former voice teacher who passed away from the disease.

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# Lehman nominated for Juno in 'R&B/Soul recording of the year' category

BY ISAAC OLSON

Patrick Lehman, an NDG-based pop/soul artist, has been nominated for a Juno award in the category of "R&B/Soul recording of the year" for his fourth album, *Butchy's Son*.

"It's kind of funny because I still feel like I am really just climbing the ladder," said Lehman, noting this is his first time being nominated and he is looking forward to attending the awards in Calgary from March 28 to April 3. "It was a huge surprise. I got a call the day before the press conference where they announced all the nominees and they told me, 'You might want to come to Toronto if you can be there.' So I figured it would be worth going out."

Lehman made it to the press conference and he said it is nice to see the Junos not just picking big-name performers who have sold millions of records.

"I'm not well known so, I guess, in a way, it means a lot more because I have been nominated for the music that I have made and not just because I am a huge star or happen to fit in a category," he said.

On his website, he says, "I am Butchy's



Patrick Lehman, an NDG-based pop/soul artist, on Sherbrooke St. on February 11.

son and this album is my statement as an artist."

For more information, visit: [Patrick-lehmanmusic.com](http://Patrick-lehmanmusic.com).

## Packer plays Carnegie Hall

Devon Packer, in grade 5 at Royal Vale in NDG, won first prize at the Winner's Recital of the International Crescendo Competition and received a chance to play at New York City's Carnegie Hall on January 10, according to the English Montreal School Board.

Principal Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette added: "You have to hear him play piano and the trombone with the band. We tell our kids to follow their dreams and I think Devon is a great example of that."

See photo, p. 1.

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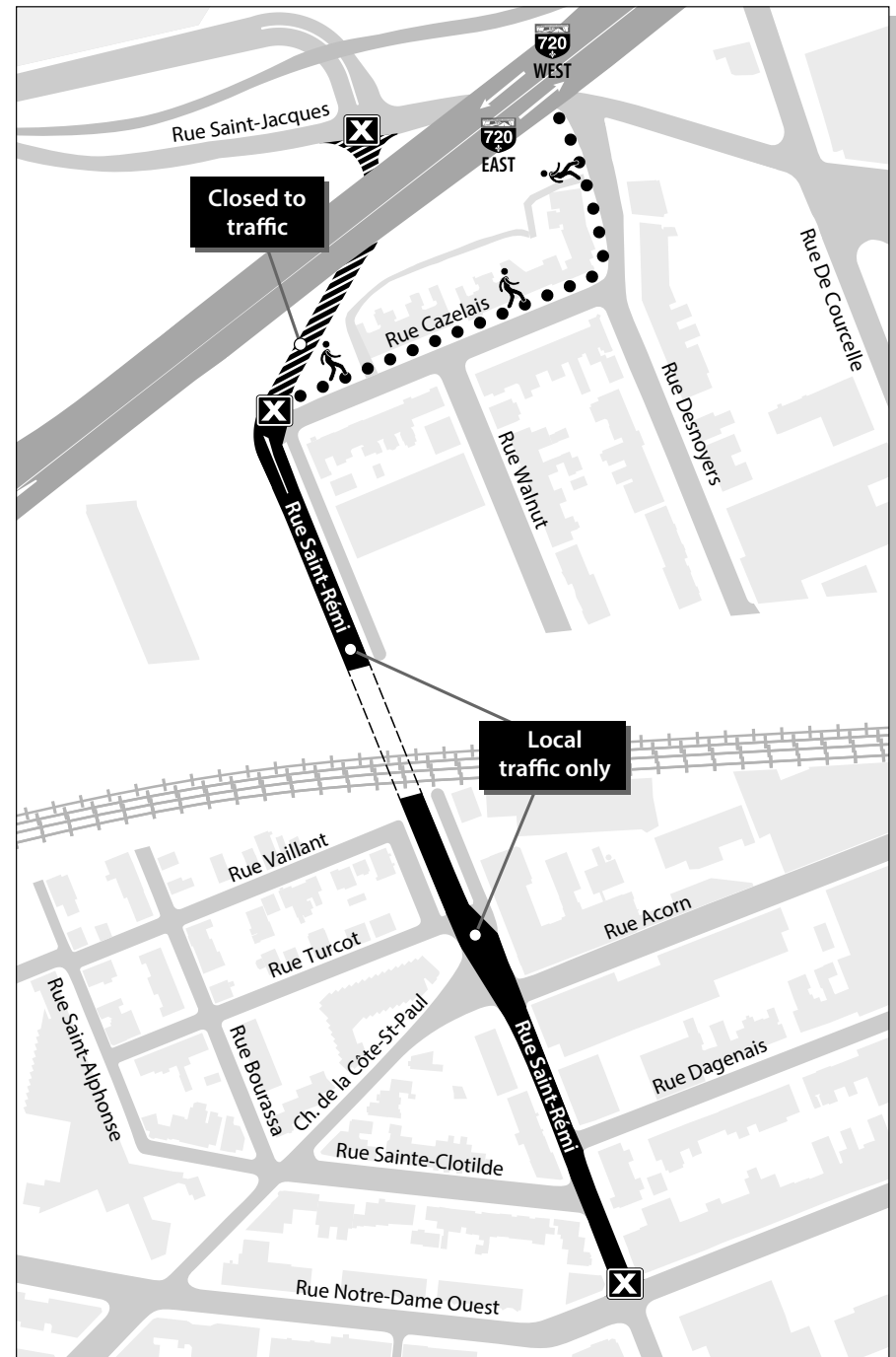
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February 15 borough council meeting highlights

Shafter proposes big-screens on back of buses that show other drivers what’s in front

By ISAAC OLSON

Just before the borough council authorized a \$530,000 loan to carry out traffic-calming measures in the borough on February 15, meeting regular Michael Shafter, a Côte des Neiges resident, made a few suggestions to improve the way buses circulate not just in the borough, but across the city.

Focusing his comments on Société de transport de Montréal (STM) vice president Marvin Rotrand, who sits on the council as Snowdon’s representative, Shafter said it would be better if bus stops were located after the intersection instead of before. As it is, he said, “Buses block the view of motorists, cyclist and pedestrians.”

Shafter suggested installing a video screen on the back of buses so motorists can see what is going on in front, such as a pedestrian trying to cross the street. This becomes even more imperative, he added, when yellow crosswalks are installed near bus stops.

“I’m sure all Montrealers would appreciate this innovation to show the STM cares,” he said.

Rotrand said bus stops are before traffic lights so buses don’t need to make two stops – one at the red light and then again at the bus stop. This facilitates a shorter trip for passengers, he said. Traffic lights, he said, have been renovated at many intersections in the city to give buses priority with the white rectangular “candle.”

“That solved some of the problem that you just mentioned,” said Rotrand, though, he added, he will look into the possibility of applying such a video technology. The STM generally, he noted, adheres to the North American norm when it comes to bus stop locations, though there are those that put the bus stops on the other side of the intersection.

Loyola district councillor Jeremy Searle claimed such a measure would be illegal under Quebec law because this would mean, in turn, the driver would be responsible for mishaps caused by the cameras. Signaling to someone that it is okay to



Monique Charpentier, who lives on Hingston Ave., asks the council to reconsider the demolition of St. Columba Church on February 15.

cross the road can result in criminal charges, he said, if that person is then “run down.”

of \$400 to Porchfest NDG – a soon-to-be annual musical event that provides free musical performances on local porches. This year, the event will be held on May 7 and 8. The Montreal Wado Ryu Karate Association collected \$500 to help it complete the association’s summer programming.

Copeman and McQueen each gave \$250 to the NDG Senior Citizens’ Council to help it carry out a study on age-friendly communities. Copeman and McQueen also gave \$200 each to the Associazzone Regionale Dei Marchigiani (ALMA Canada), based on Upper Lachine Rd., to purchase an advertisement in the 2015-2016 yearbook to be published in 2016.

**Vacuums, mowers and sweepers! Oh my!**

The council approved a contract for \$156,636 and awarded it to Exporlink Inc. to supply two litter vacuums and the related equipment. Lange Patenaude Équipement was awarded a contract for \$43,539 for two self-propelled mowers and related equipment. Accessoires Outillage was awarded a lease contract with maintenance of five street sweepers for a 40-month period. For this, councillors authorized a total expenditure of nearly \$2.3 million.

**St. Columba Church demolition approved**

Despite the continued protests of opponents and the threat of a referendum, councillors, with two dissenting votes, approved the demolition of the St. Columba Church, located at the corner of NDG and Hingston avenues. The current owner plans to construct seven townhouses in place of the church, but preserve the church hall for community usage. Searle and Côte des Neiges councillor Madga Popeanu voted against the demolition.

**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, March 7, 2016 at 7 p.m.  
at Centre sportif de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce  
6445, avenue de Monkland**

**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](http://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 substitut,  
Katerine Rowan, avocate

**One-time financial contributions  
all around**

In their usual round of financial contributions to local organizations and initiatives, several councillors and the mayor dipped into their discretionary budgets to dole out \$5,850 in total. Among the NDG-based organizations that profited, Jeunesse Benny got \$250 from NDG district councillor Peter McQueen. That money is to support the organization’s 13th annual winter carnival in Benny Park on February 13.

Borough mayor Russell Copeman teamed up with McQueen to give a total

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# Mugger pepper sprays teen, steals tablet PC in Kijiji deal gone bad



## 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.

A 17-year-old NDG resident was pepper sprayed and had his tablet PC stolen at the corner of Wilson Ave. and Sherbrooke St. on January 20 at 9:15 pm, according to Station 11 constable Claire Parkinson.

The victim posted a "for sale" ad on the popular website, Kijiji.ca. He was attempting to sell a tablet PC, said Parkinson, and the suspect contacted him in English via text messaging. Texts were exchanged and they agreed on a \$400 price tag before scheduling to meet on the street corner. The suspect arrived, reviewed the tablet PC and then made as though he was going to pull out his wallet, she said. Instead, he pulled out a can of pepper spray and discharged the weapon in the teenager's face.

With the victim's eyes and sinuses burning, the suspect snatched the PC and hopped into the passenger seat of a silver

Mazda Protégé, estimated to be a 10-year-old car. The car sped off with a second suspect at the wheel. Because the victim's eyes were burning and likely tearing up, he was unable to get a proper description of the second suspect or the licence plate number, she noted.

The victim lived near the intersection, she said, and he was able to get home and notify police, but they were not able to apprehend the suspects. There was a delay, Parkinson noted, between the incident and when the victim was able to call police as he had to get home and tend to his eyes. This delay, in turn, slowed the ability of police to respond promptly. Ambulatory services were called to the boy's home, but the victim was not transported to hospital.

The suspect is described as black or dark Hispanic, standing 6' in tall and weighing around 175 to 185 pounds. He was wearing a dark winter jacket with a black hood, she said. He had patchy facial hair, she noted, and he spoke English.

This incident serves as a reminder, she said, that people should use caution when meeting people online to sell goods. She said people should not go to these sales

## Toast of the borough



NDG Leader Toastmasters Club hosted its club contest on February 11 at the St. Thomas Church and the winners will next compete in the area contest. From there, they have the opportunity to rise to the international level. This speech contest was won by Oren Weintraub and the table topic contest was won by André Penney. From left: Renald Corbin and Weintraub are being interviewed by Peter Allen in front of the audience as part of the event.

Photo: Isaac Olson

alone and they should meet in a public, populated place to make the transaction to ensure nothing goes awry. It is not recommended that people meet strangers on dark or even well-lit street corners to sell goods. People going to buy things, she noted, are also victims on occasion.

– Isaac Olson

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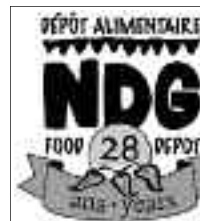
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## February 8 council meeting highlights

# Brownstein's 'resignation' speech draws supporters as he readies for mayoral bid

By ISAAC OLSON

To run for mayor and ensure voters only go to the polls once this year, Councillor Mitchell Brownstein made his resignation official at the start of the February 8 council meeting, drawing a standing ovation from a council chamber full of his family, friends and supporters.

Brownstein, as reported in the last edition of the *Free Press*, said he would prefer to serve as councillor for as long as possible, but resigning now ensures that the mayoral election, scheduled for April 10, will include hosting an election for his district 7 council seat.

"I feel it is in the best interest of the city to resign early," said Brownstein, noting he is running for mayor because he, having just turned 55, feels it is the right time. He opened a law firm with his brother in 1990, he said, and his son Andrew Brownstein joined last year as a "second-generation attorney."

He thanked his brother and son for offering to take over all his active clients if he is elected mayor. Dropping his case load, he said, will allow him to serve the city full time. He would continue to work as an advisor to the firm, but no longer see clients, he said.

Describing the council as "nine wonderful people I have worked with for the last 10 years," he said each councillor has "done so much for the city."

He said former mayor Anthony Housefather led in a way that allowed councillors to pursue their passions and, in doing that, the council has "created an environment in the city where we, as a community, work as a team." He said he wants to carry on that leadership.

After describing the many contributions

of his fellow councillors over the years, he said he looks forward to working with them in the future. Switching to French, he said, "*au revoir et à bientôt.*"

At this, the crowd stood and cheered.

### City to resurface tennis courts

The council approved a motion to repave the Côte St. Luc Tennis Club's courts for about \$21,000. The club is located at 8215 Guelph Rd. and it is currently equipped with nine Har-Tru courts. This year's season is scheduled to run from April 22 to October 23.

### Earth Hour participation draws debate

Councillors Ruth Kovac and Sam Goldbloom both voted against participating in Earth Hour 2016.

Kovac has spoken out against this annual motion in the past, saying there is so much more people can do beyond shutting their lights off once a year.

The council debated the measure extensively before it was approved by the majority.

Earth Hour 2016 will be on March 19 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Residents and businesses are encouraged to shut their nonessential lights off during that time "as a symbol for their commitment to the planet," according to Earthhour.org.

### Capital expenditures

By-law 2548 authorizing a loan of \$471,000 was approved for the preparing of plans and specifications for various capital expenditure projects. By-law 2460 authorizing a loan of \$840,000 was approved for the purchase of heavy vehicles, trucks as well as heavy vehicle equipment. By-law 2461 authorizing a loan of \$403,000 was approved for the purchase of vehicles.

### Sharma makes a donation to library

Local resident Shailaja Sharma has made a \$1,000 donation to the library, Councillor Mike Cohen announced during the meeting. He said this donation went to the purchase of new tables for the library's fireplace lounge.

"We thank her for her donation and we certainly hope there will be others," said Cohen.

### EMS has busy January: Nashen

Councillor Glenn Nashen noted that the city's volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to 251 medical emergencies in January, including about 40 for breathing problems, about 40 for chest pains and 20 for unconscious victims.

"There is absolutely no question whatsoever that our volunteers save lives," he said. "Some of these calls, they are responding to simultaneously because two or three or as many as four medical emergencies will occur in the same moment in Côte St. Luc."

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Wainberg recognized by CSL council for Torah donation



From left on February 8, Allen Levine, Ruth Kovac, Sam Goldbloom, Mark Wainberg, Dida Berku, Mitchell Brownstein, Mike Cohen and Glenn Nashen.

By ISAAC OLSON

Dr. Mark Wainberg was recognized by the Côte St. Luc city council on February 8 for his donation of a Torah honouring the memory of Shira Banki, a member of the Ethiopian community of Jerusalem. Banki was murdered in July during Jerusalem's gay pride parade. In her honour, Wainberg donated a 150-year-old Torah, written in Bagdad and fully restored, to a municipality-founded Ethiopian synagogue in the capital of Israel. At the start of the February council meeting, acting mayor Dida Berku presented Wainberg with a plaque of recognition and a framed copy of a letter from the consul general of Israel.

The letter also recognized Wainberg for his many years of research in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Wainberg is head of the HIV/AIDS research axis, Lady Davis Institute; director of the McGill University AIDS Centre and a professor at McGill University. He was the first to identify 3TC as an anti-viral drug effective against HIV in 1989 and has since made many contributions to combating HIV drug resistance. He has long been involved in international battles against both the virus and the stigma surrounding it. Reading the letter, Berku said, "As consul general, I am extremely thankful for your staunch advocacy on behalf of the LGBT and Ethiopian communities in my country."

Westminster underpass to get full face lift this summer: Erdelyi

By ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc's oldest underpass is going to get a much-needed facelift this summer and it is going to cost the city \$1 million. One of the biggest changes, said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, is the railing on the east side, which is going to be redone. That section, he noted, is heavily traversed by students as more and more kids are walking to school. Most of the students are coming from the village area and walking to school along this route and, he said, in discussions with the local school board, it was found this railing extension will help ensure their safety. The railing will be extended from the shopping centre (5555 Westminster Ave.) on the southeast side to the northeast side, where the end of the retaining wall is, he said. "What's going to be done this summer is several things," said Erdelyi in a phone interview. "The pedestrian walkways, the sidewalks, will be completely redone –



As seen here on February 11, the Westminster underpass will get a facelift this summer. completely re-poured with concrete. The railings, which have rusted over time, are going to be replaced and the retaining walls will be redone. On the west side, the concrete blocks will be removed and the earth will be regraded properly. On the east side, the surface of the concrete wall is going

continued on p. 11

Ville de

City of

Côte Saint-Luc

www.cotesaintluc.org

<b>OBJET :</b> <b>Entrée en vigueur du règlement 2468</b>	<b>OBJECT:</b> <b>Coming into force of by-law 2468</b>
Avis public est donné par le soussigné, greffier, Me. Jonathan Shecter, que le conseil municipal de Côte Saint-Luc, à sa séance ordinaire du 8 février 2016, a adopté le règlement numéro 2468 suivant :	Public Notice is given by the Undersigned, Maître Jonathan Shecter, City Clerk, that the following by-law numbered 2468 was adopted by the Côte Saint-Luc City Council at its Regular Council Meeting held on February 8, 2016:
«Règlement 2468 pour mettre à jour la grille des tarifs et des amendes pour la bibliothèque publique Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc»	“By-law 2468 updating the schedule of fees and fines for the Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library”
L’objet du règlement est de mettre à jour la grille des tarifs et des amendes pour la bibliothèque publique Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc.	The object of the by-law is to update the schedule of fees and fines for the Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library.
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.	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.
Ce règlement entre en vigueur sa date de publication.	This by-law comes into force on the date of its publication.
DONNÉ à Côte Saint-Luc, ce 23 février 2016.	GIVEN at Côte Saint-Luc, on this 23 <sup>rd</sup> day of February 2016.
Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. Greffier	Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. City Clerk
Pour plus d’information veuillez me contacter au 514-485-6800 ou à jshecter@cotesaintluc.org	For more information, please contact me at 514-485-6800 or at jshecter@cotesaintluc.org

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<b>OBJET :</b> <b>Entrée en vigueur du règlement 2398-1</b>	<b>OBJECT:</b> <b>Coming into force of by-law 2398-1</b>
Avis public est donné par le soussigné, greffier, Me. Jonathan Shecter, que le conseil municipal de Côte Saint-Luc, à sa séance ordinaire du 8 février 2016, a adopté le règlement numéro 2398-1 suivant :	Public Notice is given by the Undersigned, Maître Jonathan Shecter, City Clerk, that the following by-law numbered 2398-1 was adopted by the Côte Saint-Luc City Council at its Regular Council Meeting held on February 8, 2016:
«Règlement 2398-1 amendant le règlement 2398 sur le stationnement et la sécurité publique afin de mettre à jour l’annexe comprenant différents éléments relatifs à la signalisation et au stationnement»	“By-law 2398-1 amending by-law 2398 to regulate parking and public safety in order to update the annex containing various road signage and parking”
L’objet du règlement est de mettre à jour l’annexe comprenant différents éléments relatifs à la signalisation et au stationnement pour le règlement de la Ville concernant le stationnement et la sécurité publique.	The object of the by-law is to update the annex to the City’s by-law on parking and public safety containing various road signage and parking.
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.	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.
Ce règlement entre en vigueur sa date de publication.	This by-law comes into force on the date of its publication.
DONNÉ à Côte Saint-Luc, ce 23 février 2016.	GIVEN at Côte Saint-Luc, on this 23 <sup>rd</sup> day of February 2016.
Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. Greffier	Maître Jonathan Shecter LL.B. City Clerk
Pour plus d’information veuillez me contacter au 514-485-6800 ou à jshecter@cotesaintluc.org	For more information, please contact me at 514-485-6800 or at jshecter@cotesaintluc.org

# Berku: Half a million set aside to modernize Kildare/Cavendish intersection

By ISAAC OLSON

During the February 8 city council meeting, acting mayor Dida Berku announced that Côte St. Luc has set aside some half a million dollars to upgrade the intersection of Kildare Rd. and Cavendish Blvd. to ensure pedestrian safety.

While there isn't a plan yet, she said the money has been set aside in preparation of this much-needed improvement to this very busy intersection. Councillor Mike Cohen said a task force has been formed that includes council members, the police chief, the engineering department and more to study the intersection in search of solutions. He said the first round of ideas that have come forward are "quite interesting."

Councillor Glenn Nashen expressed "enthusiasm" for this task force as, he said, this intersection is "a major priority for the city of Côte St. Luc."

Topping the list of needed repairs, he explained, is ensuring pedestrians can get through safely. He said it is important that there is a safe pedestrian refuge at the intersection for those who cannot get across



The Côte St. Luc city council has set aside \$500,000 to modernize the Kildare Rd. and Cavendish Blvd. intersection as seen here on February 11.

the street before the lights change. Seniors and students, he said, are regularly getting trapped on the median.

"The median is simply too narrow," he said. "I've been bringing this up for at least a decade, perhaps longer. I'm glad that madam acting mayor and the council support this prioritization to find a way to make it safer for pedestrians to cross our busiest intersection."

Nashen made note of Berku's suggestion of having a protected or "slip" lane for right turns which would, in effect, create a "pedestrian triangle – a refuge – so that less lanes of traffic would have to be crossed at any given point."

## Beaumont, cont'd. from p. 1

By making it squarer, it makes it really efficient and that's what people want. In the last two weeks, since we got the new floor plans, we sold about 35 condos. People are really into it."

The new plan, he explained, also changed which direction the balconies and windows were facing to ensure there is more sunlight getting in and more privacy for residents. The new construction makes, instead of a two-tower construction, more of a singular building, he said. Construction will take some 20 months and the hope is to get things started this year.

# New rules speeding up snow removal



BILL STEINBERG  
TOWN WITH  
A VIEW

Last year, the town council adopted a number of new regulations for snow removal contractors. This winter season was the first where the rules applied. In short, contractors must have a permit to operate and a sticker for each vehicle removing snow. The cost is \$50 if the vehicle has a snow-blower attachment, \$100 for the first vehicle without the attachment and \$300 for each additional vehicle without an attachment.

We would prefer that contractors blow driveway snow onto lawns as opposed to streets. When that is done, Hampstead can remove street snow faster and residents end up with cleaner snow on their lawns. Hence we made the cost much cheaper for vehicles with the attachments.

Now you may ask why we didn't just make those attachments mandatory and ban contractors from putting snow on the street. This is what they do on the West Island and snow removal is faster and the contractors charge less than what they charge Hampstead residents. We considered doing that, but a majority of the councillors were concerned that the contractors would double what they charge residents to cover the capital costs of getting the

snow-blower attachments. The rules and fees that we adopted last year were a compromise and we may yet ban all snow on the street in the future.

How has the new system worked? Given the few snow falls this winter, the jury is still out but all contractors got their stickers, some after being fined for not having one. Tickets are being issued to any contractor caught putting snow on the cleaned side of a street or leaving large piles sticking into the road. So far snow removal does seem faster.

Not surprisingly, the largest contractor sent letters to his clients raising the monthly charge by \$4 to cover his costs for the stickers. He also suggested that residents contact the town to remove those charges and then he promised to lower the monthly charges again. To date, I have received 4 calls/e-mails out of the several hundred clients of the contractor. To each I explained what is written above and in most cases the residents asked if Hampstead has a list of the licensed snow removal contractors. In fact, we do, and anyone can get a copy by coming to town hall and asking for it. It is free.

If you have comments or questions on anything related to Hampstead, please e-mail me at [wsteinberg@hampstead.qc.ca](mailto:wsteinberg@hampstead.qc.ca) or call me 7 days a week until midnight at my home office 514.483.6954.

Bill Steinberg is the mayor of the town of Hampstead

the condo units before construction can begin.

So far, he said, the redesign is catching people's attention and a lot of his buyers are NDGers looking to downsize, but stay close to home. The project has attracted Westmount and Hampstead residents as well, he noted. There are also medical professionals, he said, taking advantage as it is close to the super-hospital.

Along with an IGA, the project, which is being built in collaboration with Sobeys, includes a gym and heated pool on the roof. The grocery store's roof will be completely green, he explained. It will be like a city park. It feels like a ground floor on the third floor, he said.

The condos start at \$250,000 and go up to \$1 million. There will be between 230 and 240 units for sale in total, he said, with underground parking. The number of condos is not exact, he noted, because units may be combined as needed. The entrance to the parking will be off Côte St. Luc Rd.

"For us, as a developer, we need to meet a certain percentage before we start building," he said while describing DevMcGill as one of the biggest developers in Montreal for nearly two decades. The company



As seen on February 2, the former car wash and buildings on Côte St. Luc Rd. near Girouard Ave. have been painted black in anticipation of its upcoming demolition and construction of a building that will take up most of the block.

does have a long list of completed projects, including Benny Square.

Because it has been so long since the project was approved, there was a misconception among the population that it may not get off the ground, but DevMcGill remains confident, he said.

He concluded, "DevMcGill is so focused on the best interest of its buyers that we decided to go back to the drawing board and make it better."



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# Hampstead monthly crime and public security report

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

In a monthly report to town council on the activities of Hampstead's Public Security department, Commander Pietro Poletti says the opening months of 2016 mark the beginning of a new era in the department with new technology facilitating the issuance of tickets and report taking.

According to Poletti, the department's PSOs are now using iPads to take reports and retrieve necessary information. He said the iPads are facilitating their tasks while at the same time rendering the PSOs "more efficient and professional when dealing with residents."

"The new way of proceeding has been welcomed by the officers with much enthusiasm," he added. "There are minor obstacles to fine tune but overall, it is a great innovative step." In a report of criminal activity in January, Poletti said four incidents took place during the month.

In the first on January 3, PSOs, while out patrolling, arrived on the scene of a break-and-enter incident at 37 Dufferin Rd. There, a vehicle faced the dwelling with its windows open and its motor running.

According to the report, the car had been moved from inside the dwelling's garage

and merchandise stolen from the house was placed in the vehicle. "Suspects made away but the security camera in function has permitted police to identify suspects," said the report.

## Postie mugged for keys

In an incident on Jan. 21 around noon near the intersection of Vezina and Macdonald avenues, a Canada Post employee was the victim of a robbery with potentially serious consequences. The PSO's report states:

"While on patrol, Canada Post employee flagged me down to inform me of a Canada Post key robbery that occurred yesterday between 12h00 and 13h00. Her colleague was on Macdonald and Vezina when he got mugged for his keys that open the postal boxes.

"Description: white male, Arab origin, from 20 to 30 years old, was assisted by a vehicle down the street. The suspect had his hand behind his back while asking for the keys. He then ordered the Canada Post employee to not look back when he walks away. He then entered the vehicle who had a driver waiting for him and the vehicle took off (no description of the vehicle was given)."

manded by citizens for many years as people want to see a safer, more beautified underpass. The city is footing the \$1-million bill, the councillor explained, by borrowing half and then using previous by-law surpluses to fund the project. In short, project loans are authorized through by-laws. Sometimes loans aren't used in full and that leftover money, he explained, is going into this project.

"That's money that was borrowed, but not spent," said Erdelyi. "Sometimes the city will borrow money and the project will



## HAMPSTEAD HAPPENINGS

Courtesy of the town of Hampstead

### Speed up snow removal

Help speed up snow removal by moving your car whenever you see the temporary orange no-parking signs that signal the arrival of snow plows. Please respect the no-parking signs to avoid delaying snow removal operations, and remember violators may be ticketed and/or be towed. REMINDER: Do not put your garbage and recycling bins on the sidewalk during snow removal operations, as this causes delays in cleaning sidewalks and streets.

### Summer 2016 job opportunities

We have jobs for students at our tennis courts, pool, day camp, sports programs and parks, and with our Public Works department. Visit our website for available positions and to get an application form. Info: 514.369.8260.

### Attention dog owners: Pick-up your dog's poop!

Every year town hall receives countless calls from residents complaining that someone left dog poop on their front yard. They are outraged that someone would expect them to pick it up. If you own a dog, please be respectful of others and dispose of your dog's poop in public garbage bins

come in under budget, so there's extra money left over."

Erdelyi said the work is scheduled to begin after St. Jean Baptiste Day (June 24) and be done before the end of August. This, he said, will not impact students and reduce the impact on motorists as the work will require lane closures. The goal, he said, is to not close all the lanes, but keep traffic moving throughout the project. Lanes will need to be closed, he said, and notes will be sent out to local residents to explain how the work will be coordinated.

or your own. Moreover, those who contravene By-Law 761-3 concerning dogs can be fined \$300 for the first offence, and \$500 for a second and all subsequent offences. Please be considerate of others and pick up after your dog.

### Prevent break-ins! Lock your garage door!

Whether left open or left unlocked, a garage door is a security risk that could result in theft and leave your home vulnerable to burglary. Furthermore, leaving a garage door opener in your car represents the same risk as leaving house keys in your car. Please do your part and remember to close and lock your garage door at night! To report this or any security risk in your neighbourhood, please call Public Security at 514.369.8250 (24-hour dispatch).

### March council meeting

Please note that the next town council meeting will be held Monday, March 7, starting at 8 pm, at the Irving L. Adessky Community Centre, 30 Lyncroft Rd. All residents are welcome.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

### Handyman/Assistant Available

For maintenance, small repairs or accompaniment, free evaluation & references available. 514-946-3003



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### Westminster, cont'd. from p. 9

to be removed and redone."

Several years ago, a pump was replaced, recounted Erdelyi, to ensure that a sudden downpour wouldn't lead to flooding. Last summer, a new concrete lining was added to the central pier of the underpass, leading to two lanes being closed between Guelph and Côte St. Luc roads. That work was conducted by Canadian Pacific Railway as the train bridge belongs to the rail company.

These upcoming repairs have been de-

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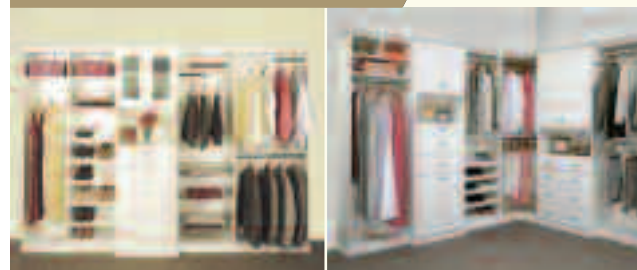
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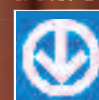
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