

Karin Marks

Mayor of Westmount

Ex-officio member of the Standing Committees on Utilities, Administration, Finance, Library Services, Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Community Events, Urban Planning, and Community Safety. Chairman of the Steering Committee on the Arena reconstruction project.

President, Association of Suburban Municipalities

Vice president, Agglomeration Council of Montreal

Board member of the Société de Transport de Montréal and Chairman of the Human Resources Committee of the STM

Vice President, Westmount-St. Louis Riding Association of the Liberal Party of Quebec

Biography

Karin Marks won her second mandate as Mayor in the municipal election of November 6, 2005 after three previous mandates on City Council and has more than seventeen years of experience in Westmount public office. Throughout these mandates, Mrs. Marks initiated the creation of the Teen Centre to provide a supervised facility catering to the needs of adolescents in the community, and as Commissioner of Architecture and Planning, spearheaded the development of Character Areas and Building Guidelines for the preservation of the City's architectural heritage, work of which she is most proud. Most recently she has focused on the community's involvement in the creation of a sustainable development plan for the City of Westmount.

Mrs. Marks initiated a program with the Refugee Center twinning Westmount families with refugee families to provide them with a welcoming and friendly resource while they go through their refugee claim.

Raised and schooled in Westmount, Mrs. Marks was first elected to City Council in 1991. Following the merger of 2001, she was elected as Chairman/Mayor of the Borough of Westmount, and sat on the City of Montreal Council as a City Councillor representative. After the demerger, she was elected Mayor of the reconstituted City of Westmount.

Mrs. Marks holds an Associate Degree in Marketing from the State University of New York, a Teaching Certificate from McGill University, and after her undergraduate work in Political Science at Sir George Williams University, she obtained a Master's Degree in Education and Counseling from the University of Massachusetts. After teaching elementary school for two years, Mrs. Marks worked as Head of Staff Development at Dawson College. She then started the Adult Education Program at LaSalle College, after which she went to industry and developed training programs for managers in the clothing industry.

Ultimately she created her own cottage industry company manufacturing women's accessories sold in major department stores across Canada.

Mother of two grown daughters, and a grandmother, Karin Marks attributes her motivation to run for office to the civic-minded family she was born into. Her previous community involvement in Westmount and Montréal include sitting on the board of Weston School and serving as member of the Committee to save Westmount High School, and worked with Project Prometheus, a mentoring program for students at risk, as well as helping in the creation of the alternative school MIND.

Mrs. Marks enjoys hiking and biking with friends and family, cooking and singing.