

No sidewalk ban planned

Council looks at smoking ban in parks, including pot

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The smoking and sale of marijuana once it becomes legal for recreational use July 1 is one of the items under discussion by city council, Mayor Christina Smith said last week. So far, she said, "I've not had too many residents asking about it."

While the city does not allow smoking – which includes any type of substance – near playgrounds, "what we're discussing is do you ban it in parks such as at the lagoon?" she said.

Smoking anywhere in public parks is reported to be illegal in Pointe Claire and was up for by-law adoption May 7 in the Montreal borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro. In Dorval, a zoning by-law tabled April 25 would ban cannabis retail outlets

from setting up near schools and malls, essentially restricting them to the industrial sector to the north.

Westmount does not consider it "feasible" to ban smoking in all public places, such as sidewalks, as Hampstead does, Smith said. "We're mindful that any restrictions have to be enforced."

The city sent Councillor Anitra Bostock, commissioner of Public Security, and Kimberley Colquhoun, the department's assistant director, to a daylong training session April 11 on the legalization of cannabis run by the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ), she said, "but there are a lot of unanswered questions."

The conference included "experts" from Statistics Canada, the city of Montreal, continued on p. 4

Mayor Smith turns 'one'



Mayor Christina Smith, seen here May 4 in her city hall office, was sworn in on April 24, 2017 (see May 2, 2017, p. 1). See p. 6 for an interview about her priorities and experiences to date, and the new council's.

Photo: Lauren Sweeney.

Clarification: all early applicants accepted

City's waiting lists for day camps keep growing

The city's summer day-camp program continues to be popular this year with waiting lists for all age categories in all sessions, Sports and Recreation officials said last week.

An initial glitch by the city's software provider in the English option of the first-come, first-served online registration April 17 delayed the 8 am sign-up for some parents, who turned up in person to line up at

the office in the Westmount recreation centre (see story April 24, p. 1).

While it was reported to the *Independent* that afternoon that "all" on waiting lists had been accommodated by juggling around counsellors, it turns out that this applied to those who had signed up before 9 am, according to Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator. Later ones went onto waiting lists.

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St. Leo's 'Shares the Warmth' – and tuques

This winter, the grade 3 class of Melanie Faber and the grade 4 class of Geneviève Lapré delivered 60 tuques to Share the Warmth in Point St. Charles.

"Our students knit tuques in all sizes ... and colours. Each tuque was tagged with a little note written by each student that said '*Fait avec amour*,' followed by the student's first name," said parent volunteer Susan Hinojosa.

"This project on empathy had various benefits. Knitting is a great skill to teach children as it improves their fine motor skills and their ability to focus. It is also a great activity for them to turn to when they need a little down time. Furthermore, it provides them with

an opportunity for creativity and a tremendous sense of pride when completed.

"We added another benefit to this activity when we gave the children a purpose by asking them to knit for those in need. The children embraced the idea and put their hearts into their work. This project, which is part of École St. Léon de Westmount's efforts to teach the heart, not just mind, was a great success! Next year, we have eight classes that wish to participate."

DeSerres donated 48 circular knitting looms and Espace Tricot provided the yarn.



Winds break branches



One of the large branches on this tree on Arlington Ave. was snapped during the high winds last week. Fortunately, it fell towards the road and was supported in place by the rest of the tree. Public Works was out May 6 removing the damaged limb.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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St. Leo's raises \$1.2k



Photo courtesy of S. Hinojosa

The 5E/6D split class at École St. Léon took on the Friends of the MUHC Toonie Challenge this year. Led by the class, the whole school raised \$1,173.65.

“What an experience it has been!” par-

ent volunteer Susan Hinojosa wrote to the *Independent* on May 2. “The students of Mr. Grondin’s [5E/6D] class took their responsibility to raise money to purchase Kangaroo pumps [equipment for feeding via the stomach] for the neonatal intensive care unit of the Children’s Hospital very seriously.

“After some brainstorming, they decided they ... would have each member of their school community apply independent thought and effort to how they would earn their toonie. The students from class 5E/6D grouped up in pairs and paid a visit to each class [in the school] to inform them of this challenge.”

Ideas ranged from reading an extra 15 minutes every day for a week, to teaching their younger sibling to skate, to doing additional household chores. The motto was “*Quand on veut, on peut!*”

Letters & photos to the editor p. 8

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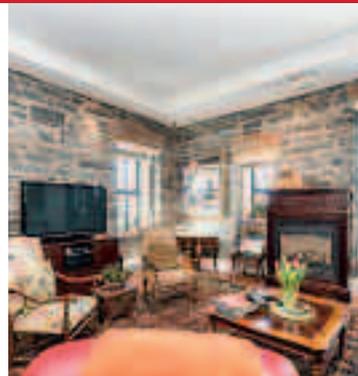
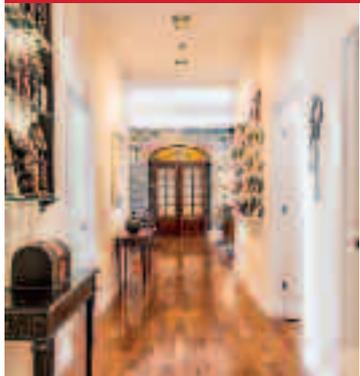
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Mother's Day

In the 1960s, Isabelle Lafrenière, my mother, walked into the local real estate broker's office and applied for the position of real estate agent. She was refused on the grounds that “women don't sell real estate.” She was so persistent that the firm agreed to take her on, on a one-month trial basis.

At the end of the probation period of thirty days, my mom had sold three houses and she was hired. Isabelle Lafrenière was the first female real estate broker in Québec and served her clientele for over 30 years. I am proud to be part of her heritage.

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Soskin to return to stage for fundraiser

Long-time Westmount resident, theatre artistic director and educator Gabrielle Soskin will perform in a one-woman show as a fundraiser for Persephone Productions, the not-for-profit theatre company she founded to provide opportunities to emerging theatre artists.

The Westmount company will produce the show based on Soskin's personal challenges in life, the theatre and at the piano (see profile March 26, 2008, p. 10).

She taught after-school drama classes at Roslyn School and theatre production for many years at John Abbott College.

Called *Counting Aloud*, the show is described in a press release as the story of a passionate woman of "certain age" who takes up the piano for the first time. It is written by Soskin and directed by Christopher Moore. Further information is at www.admission.com

Performances take place May 31 and June 1 to 2 at 8 pm, with a Sunday matinee June 3 at 3 pm, at the Studio Jean Valcourt of the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique at 4750 Henri Julien.

1932-2018

Remembering David Nicholson

Long-time Westmounter David Nicholson died on April 9. Born in 1932, he attended Sedburgh and Lower Canada College before joining the Royal Canadian Air Force and becoming a stockbroker.

Locally, the former Rosemount Ave. resident is best known for the weekly Wednesday Night salons that he hosted with his wife, Diana, at which a variety of political and financial issues were discussed.

Frequent attendees included former mayor Peter Trent, who wrote on the public condolences page: "I just heard this news and wanted to express how much David had meant to me over nearly forty years; the unforgettable Wednesday Nights chaired by him, the unforgettable comradeship offered by him, and the unforgettable parties made special by him.

"When David was made, they not only broke the mould, but burned the plans. A complex, brilliant, and charming man. The *bon vivant's bon vivant*."

Smoking, cont'd. from p. 1

Health Canada, and scientists, according to Colquhoun. Provincial law will mostly cover the same areas as the tobacco act, where smoking is currently prohibited in a variety of public spaces and buildings, she said.

"The commercial zoning and enforcement/municipal by-laws applicable to public spaces will of course be dealt with on a municipal level."

Adoption of Quebec draft Bill 157 regulating the use of cannabis is expected in June. Without amendments, it would among other things allow pot smoking wherever tobacco is permitted.

UMQ asks for more powers for municipalities

Among requests from the UMQ is that the law give municipalities additional discretionary powers over where cannabis can be smoked such as parks, playing fields, schools and daycares and outdoor events such as festivals.

Earlier this month, the province's authorized pot seller, the Société Québécoise du Cannabis, announced that four stores would be opened in Montreal near Metro stations. Smith said Lionel Groulx is one. The others are Berri-UQAM, Radisson and Jean Talon.

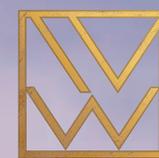
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Fingerling inventor Wiseman returns to ECS



Photos courtesy of ECS.

ECS students were “thrilled” to welcome Sydney Wiseman '06 back to her alma mater April 5, said a press release from the school. Wiseman is an old girl and the inventor of Fingerlings, “The toy [that] became the #1 toy for Christmas 2017,” according to Wikipedia. She went to ECS to speak to senior school students

about her career and how she created what the school calls “the biggest toy craze in recent memory.” Wiseman also spent some time with junior school girls, giving them a sneak peek into the Fingerlings that will be released later this year. “It was like having a rock star at our school,” summarized the release.

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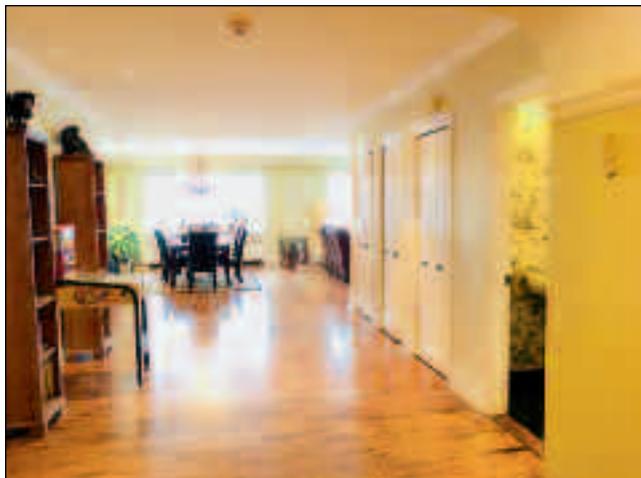
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MISSING THE GREENHOUSE, WILLow? I AM

Missing the Westmount greenhouse? [Editor's note: see October 20, 2015, p. 1 for news of its closure.]

I have gathered some of my photographs of spring flowers from there. Please, click on <http://shahrzad1001sagesse.blogspot.ca/> for more.

Missing the weeping willow tree in Westmount Park, near the lagoon? One

morning, after tai-chi, my friend Deltra told me that the city was getting rid of the lovers' weeping willow tree, which had fallen down the night before [editor's note: see August 10-11, 2010, p. 1 for news of its demise].

I rushed to the island, but it seemed to be too late, as only two parts of this precious tree were left. I said to the workers, "Please, call [your supervisor] as I am not letting you remove these pieces!"

They called and I said to the lady in



charge, "This tree means a lot to many Westmounters. It contains their love records! I cannot let them leave this park!" After a long discussion, the lady finally gave her approval to me to keep these two pieces.

It is absolutely incredible because a young willow tree has started to grow out of one of these parts that I saved!

I often go to the island. I feel proud and joyful when I see kids playing on the trunk and the tree is growing! We both know how special and powerful love can be! <http://shahrzad1001sagesse.blogspot.ca/2014/07/une-belle-journee-dete-beautiful-summer.html>

SHAHRAZAD GHAFFARI, METCALFE AVE.

officials unconvinced that the majority of residents are not pleased with our road rebuilds. In contrast, one area where the city administration has recognized its previous failings is with our urban forest.

After years of alarming neglect and compromised public safety – again to save money – the city has now reconsidered its policy. It concluded that the benefit from improved safety outweighs the higher cost of a timely identification and prompt removal of trees in poor condition.

The new steps undertaken by the city were well reported by Laureen Sweeney in the same April 24 edition. Last year, two parked cars were crushed in Vic village by falling rotted maples, one just minutes after being parked by my neighbour. Risking people's lives is truly unacceptable. A safe city is a priority.

The new council and city administration appear to be now moving in the right direction in several areas, but not all.

On auto-pilot for far too long, the city must find new ways of re-engaging with the community, perhaps through town halls and comprehensive surveys, to identify resident priorities and to determine whether Westmount residents are satisfied or not with the city services we pay for.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

IS CITY ROADWORK ACCEPTABLE TO RESIDENTS, OR NOT?

In the April 24 *Independent* (p.6), [letter writer] Nathalie Allard raises a great question when she stated that it is completely unacceptable for the city to accept shoddy road reconstruction. However, quality costs money.

The city seems reticent to pay for better design, more appropriate specifications and for a tighter inspection process. Over the years, rightly or wrongly, the city has assumed that Westmount residents are satisfied with sub-par road reconstruction in order to save money for other priorities.

So far, resident questions at council meetings, and letters and phone calls to various parties, have left council and city

Correction: Murphy is chief judge of McEntyre

Angie Murphy is the chief judge of the McEntyre writing competition. Incorrect information appeared in a caption last week (p. 11).

BIKE LIGHTS IMPORTANT, REQUIRED AT NIGHT; COMPLIANCE IMPROVING

Cyclists without lights at night are a safety concern for pedestrians, drivers and other cyclists. This is particularly a problem when cyclists are dressed in black and riding along streets that are not well lit.

The Highway Safety Code specifies that cyclists must have lights at night and, as of May 18, the cost of tickets will increase from \$35 to \$130.

The Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists *continued on p. 7*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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PHOTO TO THE EDITOR: SUMMER'S COMING!



Westmount's public pool being cleaned on May 1.

Photo: Sam Beitel.

Letters, cont'd. from p. 6

of Westmount has been cooperating with the police to help address this problem. During the last week of April and the first week of May, police officers from Westmount's Station 12 and NDG's Station 11 along with our members have been informing cyclists of the requirement for lights.

The police are now starting ticketing cyclists. While the compliance rate has been slowly improving, last fall it was still only 65 percent. The latest count shows

compliance along the de Maisonneuve bike path is now up to 75 percent, no doubt due to recent police and association efforts. The hope is to achieve a compliance rate of 80 percent in Westmount this spring, which would put Westmount significantly ahead of other parts of Montreal, which are typically in the 55 percent range.

DAN LAMBERT,
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIANS
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Windy weekend



A tree downed in King George (Murray) Park after strong winds, May 5 at 9 am. Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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Education efforts at Claremont and de Maisonneuve on April 27. Photo courtesy of Dan Lambert.

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Smith marks one year in mayoral role

New council tackles major projects in learning curve

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After a year as mayor of Westmount – in interim and then fully-elected capacities – Christina Smith said last week the new council has already started focussing on a number of major long-term projects despite unexpected challenges requiring response in “real time.”

The major projects, she said, include the Urban Planning permit process, the greenhouses, southeast development, commercial revitalization and an indoor pool. “The pool is a massive undertaking. Not all council is aligned on the need. I don’t think people want a huge tax increase.”

The new council “was forced with important decision-making very quickly,” she said, when it had to make budget cuts fol-

lowing sudden “unfair” and increased agglomeration apportionments affecting Westmount.

As mayor, this suddenly took her into uncharted territory to forge a new relationship with Montreal after close communication with former mayor Denis Coderre was abruptly changed by the election of a new Montreal mayor, party and ideas.

For Smith, “It was a big difference between being the mayor of an experienced council wrapping up its mandate and the beginning of a very new council with six of the eight councillors on a learning curve,” she explained. All bring fresh ideas, she added, and are anxious to make changes that require a thoughtful approach.

“Am I frustrated with the time it takes

to make changes? Yes.” She points to curtailed attempts to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers. “But I acknowledged that I was moving too quickly.”

Other ongoing challenges faced by the new council include the closure of Greene and other Turcot traffic changes. It is also still awaiting a court judgment on the city’s legal action seeking the installation of a sound barrier on the new Highway 136 “before it’s too late.”

Outlining the major issues on which the council has been dealing, Smith said one of the pressing ones that had been at the heart of the election campaign was streamlining and simplifying the building permit process.

At Urban Planning

Smith said the city had hired two new inspectors last summer and added \$500,000 to the Urban Planning budget for 2018, boosting it from last year’s \$1.3 million.

She has met with many of the architects with whom the city often deals. Changes regarding the *Guidelines*, for example, have to be made as part of a process, she said. “You can’t just do one-offs on windows,” for example. “It has to be done in a way that preserves the city’s architectural heritage.”

An indoor pool

Smith said the city is in the process of building up data on an indoor pool to add to some of what had been collected during planning for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). She met two weeks ago with the Westmount YMCA, which has experience in the management and operation of an indoor pool.

In assessing the needs and wishes of various user groups, Smith said, “we wish everything for everyone,” but the city has to investigate other items such as costs.

She said she has been pleased to find so many people are engaged and “willing to work on fundraising.” Some are those who fundraised for the WRC. “But an indoor pool is a huge undertaking.”

Greenhouses, commercial revitalization

Restoration of the greenhouses, closed since 2015, “is finally moving along” with the council’s expected approval of professional services for plans at its meeting May 7.

The council is going ahead quickly in efforts to improve the economic viability of the commercial districts of Victoria village and St. Catherine/Greene. Though it’s not “a ribbon-cutting” project, Smith said, “it’s very exciting to me.”

Southeast development

The city is working on creating an Urban Planning development committee to look at the needs of the city as a whole including the planning vision for the southeast. This group will consist of urban planners, whose role will include how to engage citizens in big planning issues, Smith said. The city will soon be advertising a call for members. “We’ve got some great talent in the city.”

The redevelopment of St. Catherine St. will be woven into the southeast project, she said. This includes the Tupper parking lots (“where an indoor pool might go”), Dorchester and the area to the south. “It’s a neighbourhood under a lot of pressure especially with the redevelopment of the [former] Children’s Hospital site.”

Community events

The council is also discussing community events and ways to engage volunteers in this day and age when two adults in a family may be working, Smith said. The city’s recent reception for volunteers and new residents April 25 underlined “how glad people are to live in Westmount.”

Capital investment

The council is also committed to carrying on the need for infrastructure renewal, an investment of some \$16 million every year, she said. Related to this is a new effort to provide progress on street reconstruction under way to be shown on videos on the city website, she said.

Establishing priorities

While the council held the first of two “retreat” meetings to set out its priorities for the current mandate, Smith said, the second one is set for May 8.

Mayors agree on need for downtown French elementary

Smith asks Plante for Mt. Royal consultation in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith said last week she has asked that a public consultation meeting be held in Westmount on the closure of Mount Royal to through traffic.

She made the request to Montreal mayor Valérie Plante at a meeting between them April 5, she said, to which Plante replied she would work on holding a meeting “maybe close to” Westmount. “I explained it was important for her to hear directly from our citizens but I don’t think she understands why they are opposed.”

A pilot project starting in June to close Remembrance Rd./Camillien Houde Way is expected to increase the impact of road

closures for reconstruction throughout the area, Smith said. This is Westmount’s main argument for asking Montreal to delay the pilot until after the Turcot project (see story February 27, p. 1).

Smith said she and Plante did agree on the need to work together to obtain a new elementary school for downtown French-speaking children to alleviate overcrowding at St. Léon. In this need, “I do feel we’re on the same page.”

Smith said she was trying to arrange a meeting with the school board (the Commission scolaire de Montréal) on the issue. As well, the city has not yet received plans to expand St. Léon “that I am aware of” (see story October 3, 2017, p. 1).



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Bruce Kent (left) congratulated by Dave McKay, President and CEO of RBC

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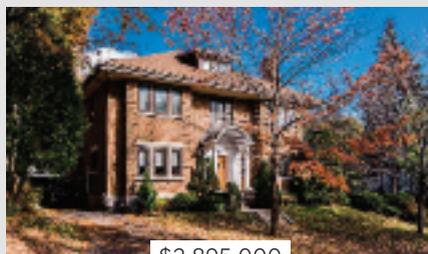
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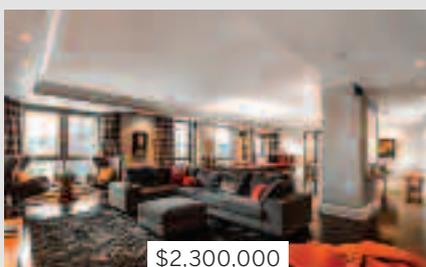
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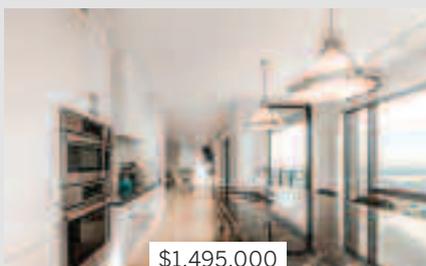
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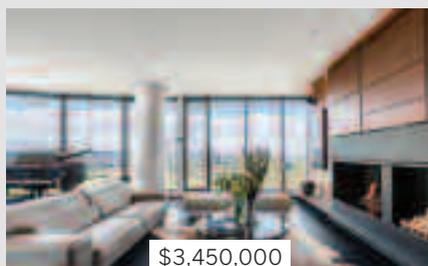
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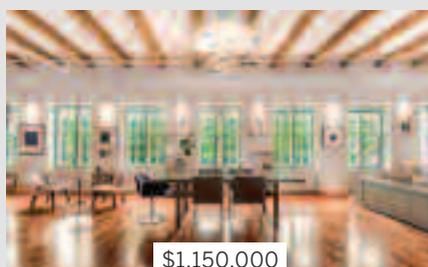
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Centre Greene holds its last used book sale

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Book lovers looking for bargains got a last chance to indulge their passion at Centre Greene on May 4 and May 5 when the community centre held its final second-hand book sale.

While the popular annual event was an important fundraiser for Centre Greene for many years, the centre's administrators decided the used book sale was no longer feasible when they took into account the time and effort involved.

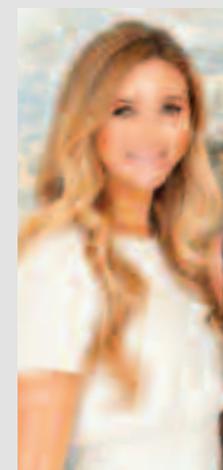
"This year is our last sale," said Heather



The Splawinski family, from left, Hunter, Amanda and Olivia, were at Centre Greene's used book sale on May 5 shopping for children's books.

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Hodges, special events coordinator and summer camp director at Centre Greene, who was overseeing things on Friday evening when she spoke to the *Independent*.

“Our other programs and fundraisers are doing so well that we desperately need storage, and unfortunately we just can’t do this anymore,” she said.

All the profits from this year’s sale of books, which are donated by people in the community, are going into a fund that will help pay for children from needy families so they can more easily participate in Centre Greene’s summer day camp program.

“For any families we see who are struggling, we aim to use these profits to provide some of their weeks at the camp for free,” said Hodges. “Every single cent of this sale is going to help families in need.” Last year’s proceeds paid for a total of 16 weeks.

Centre Greene executive director Beth Symansky told the *Independent* that even in an era of Kindles and e-books, the book sale continued to be a success, and even improve. This year’s book sale raised “close to” \$3,000 (allowing the centre to give 17 free weeks of camp), versus “about \$2,700” and 16 weeks last year, she told the *Independent* May 7.

Among those shopping for books on May 5 were three members of the Splawinski family from Westmount. “We come every year,” said Amanda Splawinski, who was accompanied by her seven-year-old twins, Hunter and Olivia. They left with a selection of children’s books.

Another Westmounter, Vincent Desrochers, was checking out the cookbooks. “I was just looking at art books before,” said Desrochers, who ended up purchas-



Westmounter Vincent Desrochers was checking out the cookbooks on May 5 during Centre Greene’s used book sale.

ing around 20 volumes.

Jennifer Timmons, an NDG resident whose son attends Roslyn School as well as Centre Greene’s after-school program, seized the opportunity while picking him up during the late afternoon to drop by the book sale.

“I love books,” she said. “I have my iPad now and read quite a bit on my iPad. But it’s nice once in a while to get paper versions.”

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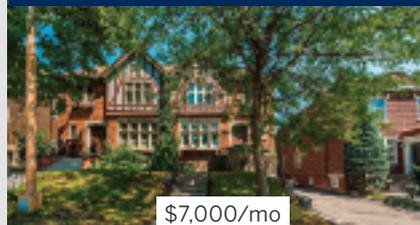
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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Relocalisation du comptoir de la réception À compter du vendredi 4 mai, hôtel de ville. En raison de travaux de rénovation, la réception de l'hôtel de ville, qui sert également de comptoir des finances, sera relocalisée au deuxième étage, et ce, pour une durée de 6 à 8 semaines.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Toutou passe la nuit! (4 à 8 ans)

Le samedi 12 mai, 18 h à 19 h, Bibliothèque. Apporte ton animal en peluche samedi à 18 h, vêtu de ton pyjama et reste pour un conte ou deux. Reprends ton animal en peluche le dimanche 13 mai. 514 989-5229.

Série Sois créatif (9 à 14 ans) : Marionnettes

Le lundi 14 mai, 16 h à 17 h, salle des activités de la Bibliothèque. *Unleash Your Inner Monster!* (en anglais) avec Jesse Stong (École nationale de théâtre du Canada). Viens te joindre à nous pour un atelier interactif avec des activités pratiques pour apprendre à manipuler des marionnettes. Amuse-toi à imaginer des personnages extraordinaires à travers des jeux de groupe dynamiques à l'aide de marionnettes. 514 989-5229.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Le mercredi 16 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 22 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Go, Went, Gone* (2017) de Jenny Erpenbeck. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Conférences de 14 heures : Sylvie Coutu

Le mercredi 23 mai, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *Gaudi, l'architecte controversé et admiré de Barcelone*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition de Gabriel Safdie

Du 19 avril au 17 mai, galerie du Victoria Hall. La galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres de Gabriel Safdie. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 juin

Concert : Mozart en mai

Le mercredi 9 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Profitez d'une soirée de Mozart, Mahler et plus encore avec le quatuor Z4. 514 989-5226.

Conférence : Parlons opéra!

Le dimanche 13 mai, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Roméo et Juliette*. Présenté (en anglais) par L'Opéra de Montréal. Gratuit. Réservez votre place au 514 989-5226.

L'intelligence animale : mieux comprendre les qualités exceptionnelles des animaux

Le mardi 15 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Lors de cette deuxième conférence de la série, nos experts invités discuteront des animaux urbains sauvages et domestiques, de la zoothérapie, de la législation et des attitudes face aux animaux. Présentation du Projet ville en santé de Westmount. Gratuit.

Échange de plantes vivaces

Le jeudi 17 mai, 16 h 30, parc Westmount près de la Bibliothèque. Échangez vos plantes vivaces contre d'autres plantes! Les plantes doivent être dans un contenant avec de la terre, avoir des racines, être en bonne santé et être clairement identifiées. Plus d'informations à westmount.org.

Conférences-midi

Le mardi 22 mai, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *The Dante Hardware and Mezza Luna Story* avec Elena Faita. En collaboration avec le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10 \$/conférence. 514 989-5226.

43^e Journée annuelle de la famille

Le samedi 26 mai, 10 h à 15 h, parc Westmount. Venez vous amuser au parc : jeux gonflables, enclos d'animaux, promenade aérienne et bien plus encore. Divers groupes communautaires et organismes seront sur place. 514 989-5353.

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SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse en tout temps

Du 16 avril au 15 juin. Rappel : pendant la migration printanière des oiseaux, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au Bois Summit. 514 989-5222.

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CITY HALL

Relocation of reception counter

From Friday, May 4, City Hall. Due to renovation work, the City Hall reception, which also serves as the finance counter, will be relocated to the second floor for a period of 6 to 8 weeks.

LIBRARY

Stuffed Animal Sleepover! (4 to 8 years)

Tuesday, May 22, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Library. Drop off your stuffed animal Saturday at 6 p.m., wear your pj's and stay for a story or two. Leave your stuffed animal at the Library for a sleepover and pick it up on Sunday, May 13. 514 989-5229.

Be Creative Series (9 to 14 years): Puppetry

Monday, May 14, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Storytime Room, Library. *Unleash Your Inner Monster!* with Jesse Stong (National Theatre School). Join us for an interactive workshop with hands-on activities to learn basic puppetry skills. Have fun imagining amazing characters through dynamic group and individual drama games using puppets. 514 989-5229.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, May 22, 7 p.m., Library. *Go, Went, Gone* (2017) by Jenny Erpenbeck. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

2 O'Clock Conferences Series: Sylvie Coutu

Wednesday, May 23, 2 p.m., Library. *Gaudi, l'architecte controversé et admiré de Barcelone*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition featuring Gabriel Safdie

April 19 – May 17, Gallery at Victoria Hall. The Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition featuring artist Gabriel Safdie. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

Next Council Meeting Monday, June 4

Concert: Mozart in May

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Enjoy an evening of Mozart, Mahler, and more with quartet Z4. Tickets required. 514 989-5226.

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!

Sunday, May 13, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *Romeo and Juliette*. Presented in English by L'Opéra de Montréal. Free. Reserve your place at 514 989-5226.

Animal Smarts: Understanding the exceptional qualities of animals

Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m., Library. This second part of a series includes a discussion with invited experts about urban animals, animal welfare legislation, animal therapy and changing mindsets. Presented by the Westmount Healthy City Project. Free.

Perennial Plant Exchange

Thursday, May 17, 4:30 p.m., Westmount Park near the Library. Exchange your perennials for something new! Plants must be potted in a container with soil, have roots, be healthy and be well labeled. For more information, go to westmount.org.

Afternoon Lecture Series

Tuesday, May 22, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *The Dante Hardware and Mezza Luna Story* with Elena Faita. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10/lecture. 514 989-5226.

43rd Annual Family Day

Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Westmount Park. Spend the day in the park enjoying inflatable games, races, petting zoo, zip line and more. Community groups and organizations will be present. 514 989-5353.

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PUBLIC SECURITY

Summit Woods: dogs on leash at all times

From April 16 to June 15. Reminder: during the spring bird migration period, dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES in Summit Woods. 514 989-5222.



Safdie, Holden Rothman 'visit' Jerusalem at Blue Met



Gabriel Safdie and Claire Holden Rothman.

Photo courtesy of Blue Met.

Westmounters Gabriel Safdie and Claire Holden Rothman were among the "standing-room only" crowd at "The Gabriel Safdie Event: Jerusalem of the Mind," held April 29 at HOTEL10 downtown as part of this year's Blue Met literary festival.

The panel discussion comprised Marcello Di Cintio, Ariela Freedman, Sayed Kashua, Leila Marshy, Ruby Namdar and Chantal Ringuet.

Holden Rothman was the moderator.

Safdie in the symposium's press release about his inspiration for the theme, "The convergence of the shifting prayers [in Jerusalem] from the wall on a Jewish holiday, the muezzin's haunting calls to prayer with melodic readings from the Koran, and the resonant tolling Christian bells personifies for me the finely woven spirituality of this ancient city. One is filled with a grand sense of the oneness that encompasses the enduringly great diversity of Jerusalem."

Holmgren interviews director Dolan



Photo courtesy of L. Holmgren.

Westmounter Lindsay Holmgren, professor of strategy and organization at McGill University's Desautels faculty of management, interviewed award-winning filmmaker and actor Xavier Dolan April 20 at the 2018 International Conference on Narrative, held at McGill.

The director and screenwriter of *I Killed My Mother* (J'ai tué ma mère), *Heartbeats* (Les amours imaginaires), *Laurence Anyways*, *Tom at the Farm* (Tom à la ferme), *Mommy*, *It's Only the End of the World* (Juste la fin du monde) and *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan* told Holmgren that he had "spent his childhood chasing escape in films, and now that I'm an adult, I make films to chase my childhood."

Holmgren said of Dolan, "I'm deeply impressed by his dedication to his craft, his seemingly limitless energy, his authenticity, his generosity and his sincerity."

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Also, we are setting up our Pet Rescue table at the Westmount Family Day again, this year on Saturday, May 26. See you there!

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

Council approves 34 building permits in April, refuses none

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting April 16. There were no refusals. These are the only permits considered by the council in April.

Approved

- 670 Grosvenor:** to install a fence;
62 Arlington: to landscape at front;
549 Prince Albert: to replace a basement door;
18 Severn: at a Category 1* house to reinstate in existing openings two windows and two doors which, based on archival and site surveys, are true to the original;
463 Clarke: to replace windows at the rear;
9 Douglas: to make modifications at the rear of the building to include building a small addition under the sunroom;
3 Forden Ave.: to landscape at the front, side and rear and to modify entry stairs;
309 Grosvenor: at a Category I house to replace windows provided they are made of wood without any cladding and that the transoms on the front façade windows are removed;
4893 de Maisonneuve: to do landscaping at the front and rear and to modify the rear deck;
134 Abbott: to install windows on the front façade make a door opening at the rear;
4215 de Maisonneuve: at a Category I building to replace three windows;
4120 St. Catherine: to install a security grill in front of a mechanical ventilation unit;
5 de Casson: to modify the rear deck and create a new window opening on the rear façade;
4160 St. Catherine: to install a charging station for an electric vehicle;
2307 Dorchester: to landscape after demolition of a utility building at the former Children's Hospital site (see story March 6, p. 1);
3221 The Boulevard: landscaping at the front, sides and rear;
630 Belmont: to replace the front and garage doors;
501 Mount Pleasant: to replace a bay window provided the divisions in the transom are maintained;

- 63 Belvedere Rd.:** to do landscaping on condition that the barbecue be installed to be less visible from the street;
68 Chesterfield: at a Category I house, to replace windows and a door, provided the balcony door on the front façade has a thicker base, which must be aligned with the stone detail of the wall, and that it is made of wood without any cladding;
486 Mountain: masonry repair work, including the replacement of some window sills;
4919 de Maisonneuve: to replace the front door;
4545 Sherbrooke: to replace windows;
228 Prince Albert: to replace windows and doors;
3169 St. Antoine: to replace window sills at the rear;
419 Mount Stephen: at a Category I house, to replace windows;
20 Somerville: at a Category I house, to replace a front balcony door provided it is made of wood without any cladding. Also, given that the wood detail integrated *continued on p. 16*

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Polak welcomes Dutch, everyone at KoningsDag



From left, Westmounter Willem Westenberg with his mother, Marion Westenberg, Westmounters Pennie and Michael Polak, and Westmounters Elyse Desforges and Charles de Kovachich. In the picture on the lectern is the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, and his wife Maxima.

Photo courtesy of W. Westenberg.

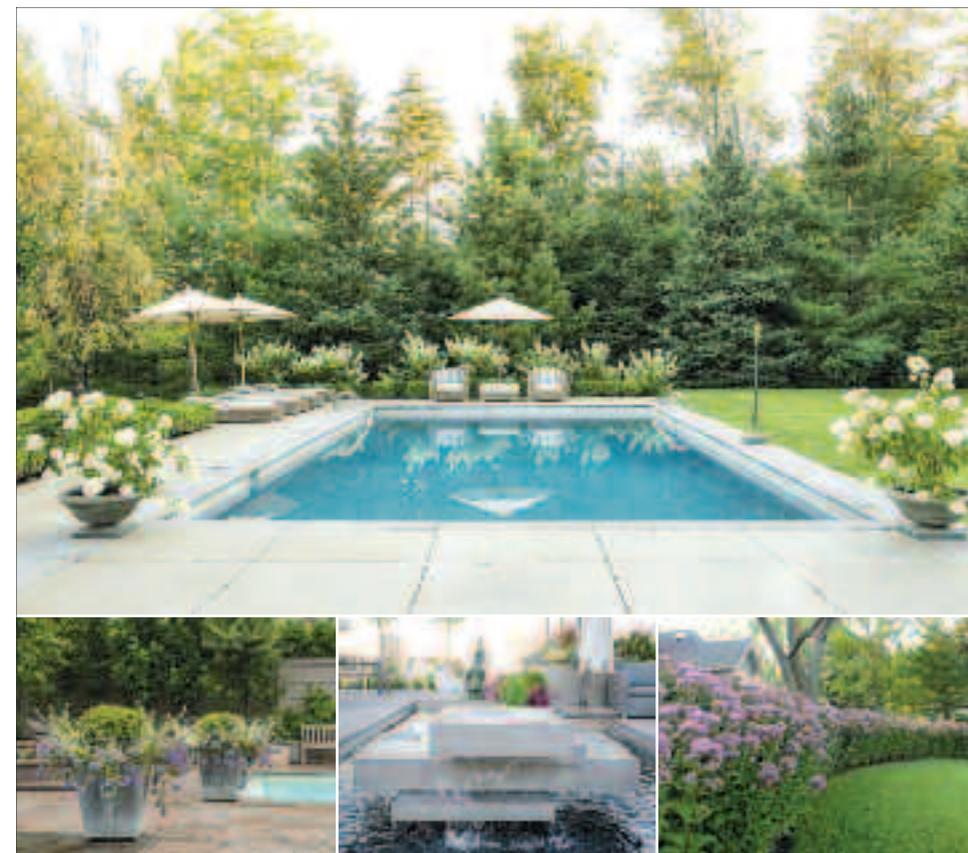
Westmounter Michael Polak, honorary consul for the Netherlands in Montreal, welcomed a crowd of approximately 400 people at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on April 27 to celebrate the Dutch

king's birthday, *KoningsDag* (King's Day). Willem-Alexander of the house of Orange-Nassau turned 51. He has been king since the abdication of his mother, Queen Beatrix, in 2013.

Permits, cont'd. from p. 15

- in the transom is a character defining element of the building it must be rebuilt in the new transom;
- 28 Arlington:** at a Category I house, landscaping;
- 362 Kitchener:** to replace some windows;
- 4698 Westmount Ave.:** planting to include cedars in the front yard;
- 4873 Westmount Ave (Marionopolis):** At a Category I building, to modify four openings at the rear to accommodate mechanical equipment;
- 19 Springfield:** to build a rear extension

- and replace windows;
- 28 Arlington:** at a Category I house, to replace a front entrance door provided the profile and the detail of the proposed door match the original as per section 4.2.2 of the *Guidelines for Building and Renovating in Westmount* stating that an original wood door facing the street or found in the principal façades must be replaced by a wood door matching the original;
- 21 York:** to replace wood fascia with metal fascia.



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Daffodil Ball celebrates 25 years

I digress.

Reflective of today's times, the 2018 eve was pared down. Daffodils (38,000 of them) were everywhere, of course. In commemoration of the gala's 25 years as a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society the theme was silver.

Event planner **Alison Silcoff** wore silver – a Vera Wang silk satin gown, as did MC **Julie du Page** (an Ariane Carle strapless), there with **Andrew Lapierre**.

However, most ladies in the high-octane crowd wore black. Some looked forward to the brights of spring and sported huge flowers on their fabulous full skirts (**Bita Cattelan**, there with hubby **Paolo Cattelan**). Hostesses were in silver: long gowns and fox fur, and greeters were chic in LBDs (Little Black Dresses) sporting LDBs (Little Daffodil Brooches).

Cocktail hour with Laurent Perrier champagne had a caviar-blini bar donated

by Quintessence. The evening menu was created by guest chef **Marc Lintanf** with guest dessert chef **Patrice Demers** under the direction of **Armando Arrudo** and his team at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth.

Co-chairs were Westmounter **Alfredo Barrios**, CEO/president, Rio Tinto, there with **Elena Barrios**, along with **Stuart Elman** (managing partner, Persistence Capital Partners), with **Figi Elman**; **Mario Plourde** (COO, Cascades) and **Marie Letarte**, and **Richard Voyer** (vp general manag- *continued on p. 18*)



Norman Steinberg & Alison Silcoff



Mario Plourde, Stuart Elman, Alfredo Barrios and Richard Voyer.

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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

er Soprema) with **Anne-Marie Fontaine**.

Committee members were **Nathalie Schwartz Décarie** (with **Charles Décarie**, Triotech), **Katia Piccolino** (Ritz Carlton), **Nicole Magnan** (with **Claude Magnan**), **Martin Rouleau** (Engel & Völkers) noted with celeb **Lara Fabian**, **Jeannie Saunders** and **Shirley Quantz**.

Local res attending included **Angelina** and **Tony Loffreda** (RBC); **Julia** and **Stephen Reitman** (Reitmans), **Mia Melmed Goodman** and **David Goodman** (Pharmascience), **Lea Girard Nadeau** and **Harry Grivakis** (VVS Films), doctors **Meryl Elman** and **Sheldon Elman** (Medisys), and **Mosé Persico**.

Also noted amidst the glamour were **Isabelle Marcoux** (Transcontinental), **Elaine Léger** and **Pierre Karl Péladeau** (Québecor), **Michaela** and **Michael Penner** (Hydro Québec); **Renée-Claude Boivin** and **Charles Edmond** (Scotia Capital); **Anissa Goldberg** and **Mark Goodman** (Mirium), **Arlene** and **Andrew Torriani** (Ritz-Carlton), **Emma Griffin** and **Neil Bruce** (SNC Lavalin), **Marie-Josée Simard** and **Alain Bellemare** (Bombardier), **Emma Griffin** and **Neil Bruce** (SNC Lavalin), **Norman Steinberg** (Norton Rose Fulbright) and **Renée Kessler**, **Bunny Berke** and **Larry Lusko**, **Marie-Lise Andrade** (Fondation Lise Watier) and **Martin Couture** (Sani-

max), and **Jéhanne Simon** (L'Oréal Canada).

Guests loved Fuse, the headline act from London. The virtuoso musicians played on \$1-million Swarovski-encrusted violins. No wonder the music sparkled!

The Canadian Cancer Society's **Suzanne Dubois**, executive director Quebec division, and **Pierre Richard**, board vice-chair, were thrilled with the night's results: \$2 million net was raised. Along with major sponsors, fifteen companies each contributed \$50,000.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY MAY 8

Former Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre** on his recent trip to Israel and views on leadership. Free. Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke. 7 pm.

Westmount Horticultural Society presents "The Wonder of Weeds" with **Monica Giacomini**, educator, herbalist and wildcrafter. \$5. Westmount Public Library. 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Station 12's Coffee with a Cop. Second Cup on Greene Ave. 1 to 3 pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Judy Rebeck discusses her new memoir, *Heroes in My Head*. Free admission; donations requested. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

The Krishnamurti Information Centre presents video *Living with an Uncaring Spouse*. \$5. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater

Ave. 2 to 4 pm.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Westmount Healthy City Project presents second of two-part series on "Animal Smarts." Free admission. Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Perennial Plant Exchange of the Horticultural Advisory Committee. Outside Westmount Public Library. 4:30 to 6 pm: plant drop-off and voucher distribution. 6 to 6:30 pm: exchange for voucher holders only. 6:30 to 7:30 pm: sale, open to all, plants \$2 each.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Silent movie concert: "Chaplin vs. Keaton vs. Lloyd" in three of their short films with three live musicians. \$12.75/\$8.50 + tax, cash only Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. 8 pm.

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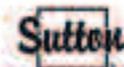


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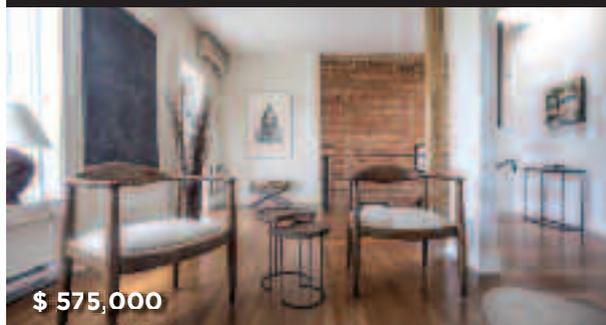
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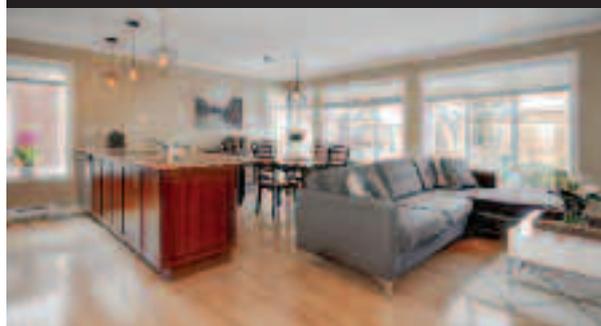
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