

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 13 No. 10e

*We are Westmount*

October 29, 2019

**City's goal: 'revitalization' of Westmount Park**

## Survey launched Oct. 28 to gauge residents' use, priorities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How often do you visit Westmount Park? If you do, for what reasons? And what would make you use it more and improve the experience? As well, what should be the city's investment priority in further developing it?

These are some of the 23 questions being asked of residents in a city survey to determine the use and satisfaction levels of Westmount Park.

Launched October 28, it is the first of the promised public consultations on the "revitalization" of the city's central and "iconic" park.

PIN codes were delivered by mail to all residents last week for undertaking the survey online or using a printout available at Westmount Public Library. The deadline is November 18, according to Sebastian Samuel of the city's communications division.

### *Satisfaction levels*

Among other questions on the survey are the satisfaction levels with the park's facilities for sports, children's playground and splash pool, the bike path, walking "trails," and parking, for example.

Rates of satisfaction are ..... also sought for the lagoon *continued on p. 8*

**GG, Polak mark WWII Scheldt victory for Antwerp**



Westmounter Michael Polak, right, the Netherlands' honorary consul-general in Montreal, with Governor General Julie Payette October 26 at the Régiment de Maisonneuve's armoury downtown. They met at an event "to commemorate the Battle of the Scheldt in 1944," which "served as the kick-off to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands in World War II by the Canadian army," he explained to the *Independent*. Victory in the battle led to the liberation of Antwerp and the use of its port by the Allies.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. POLAK.

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**Mayor: 'very good news' for temporary winter need**

## Cabot Square homeless day shelter set for former Miso/McDonald's site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith said last week that efforts to set up a temporary homeless shelter at the southwest corner of St. Catherine and Atwater was "very good news" and meets all Westmount's zoning requirements.

The vacant building, which formerly housed a McDonald's restaurant and more

recently the Miso restaurant, has been purchased, meaning that a new site will have to be found in a year, she explained. "It's not the long-term solution but the immediate need is for this winter."

"I truly believe this is very important," Mayor Smith said.

With the departure over the summer of The Open Door day shelter at the former St. *continued on p. 11*



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# White wins first ExpoCity photo contest



From left, Finance department director Julie Mandeville, photographer Margaret White, and Mayor Christina Smith.

BY HEATHER BLACK

Three photographs by the first ExpoCity contest winner, Margaret White, were unveiled October 24 by Mayor Christina Smith in the downstairs reception area of city hall. The winning images – pedestrians along de Maisonneuve near Clarke and a park scene and spires of Victoria Hall

– were chosen from 15 contestants.

White said, “I followed the contest theme – the spirit of Westmount – to select from my work.” A fine arts graduate from the University of Manitoba, White has been a city resident since 1997 as well as an exhibitor at Art Westmount and at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

This is the first year for the ExpoCity contest and there are plans to hold another next year. Finance department director Julie Mandeville said the idea for the contest was suggested by city hall employee Élyse Corbière “to support the talent in the community.”

Organized by head of communications Sebastian Samuel, jury members included Corbière, Andry Rafolisy, Claude Ladouceur and Phyllis Galbraith from Finance as well as Mélissa Denis-Daigneault from Community Events.

As art events are usually held at Victoria Hall – and not city hall – Mayor Smith commented, “It’s an innovative way to bring artists into our building and a great way to get residents involved.”

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**Akelius**

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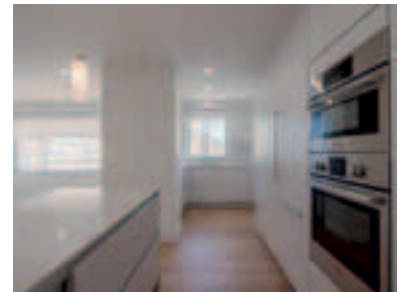
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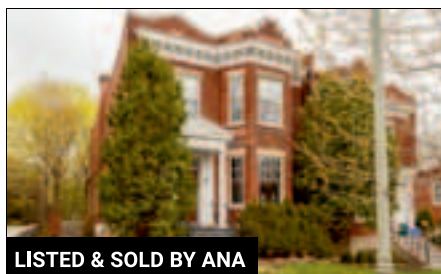
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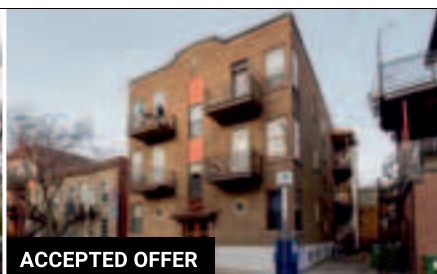
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## Resident asks council

# Why is garage door on Windsor required to be wood?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Not every garage door is the same. A lot depends on its location and the architectural significance of the building involved, a resident of 24 Windsor was told at the council meeting October 7.

Why, she asked, is the city requiring her to replace her garage door with wood rather than metal as many others seem to be? She said that wood was more costly and she could only find one such supplier.

"We walked up and down looking at garage doors," she explained. "I feel we're being penalized," because the door is facing a street, Prince Albert. "I'd like you to reconsider," she said.

Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, pointed out that a door should reflect the quality of the house. In her case – a Category II one is of a higher heritage value than a Category III home, where a metal door she sought might be acceptable.

According to the city's *Guidelines for*



24 Windsor on October 25, from Prince Albert Ave.

*Renovation and Building in Westmount*, wooden doors are specifically required for buildings that have a heritage rating of categories I\* and I as well as for Category II buildings whose doors face a street.

"Doors in other locations may be replaced by either a wood or heavy gauge metal door, provided the profiles are identical to the original wood details," the guidelines state. For Category III buildings: "Doors may be replaced by either a wood or heavy gauge metal."

## Goal: To improve bike flow south of Sherbrooke

# Switch parking to east side on Lansdowne, Lock says

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's time to switch parking from the west to the east side on Lansdowne in the

block south of Sherbrooke, a resident told city council October 7.

Richard Lock said this would make it consistent with parking above Sherbrooke and simplify flow on the newly created bike path that goes one-way south from Westmount Ave. He pointed out how the bike path north of Sherbrooke is very clearly demarcated on the west side next to the curb.

Once across Sherbrooke, however, because of parking on the west side, it suddenly goes into the centre of the street and/or "disappears" into the parking lane. At de Maisonneuve, however, it returns to the west side for southbound cyclists.

"It seems to be rational to move parking from the west to the east side," in the one block, he concluded.

"Those comments will certainly be shared with the Traffic Advisory Committee," Mayor Christina Smith said.




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## Grosvenor architect questions permit refusal

# Escobar asks city to enact minor derogation by-law

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of Grosvenor asked the city council October 7 to reconsider its denial of his permit request to modify his rear wood balcony and lower deck using glass railings. Miguel Escobar said this was similar to others he has seen at Category II houses in the neighbourhood.

While the proposed glass is “very modern,” he acknowledged, it respects the architecture of the building.

“I am very perplexed by the recommendation of the PAC (Planning Advisory Committee) not to approve it,” said Escobar, an architect and urban planner.

The city had also asked him to re-position a heat pump to a distance of 6’-6” away from the side property line, which, in the case of the small back yard of his row house south of Sherbrooke, would put it right in the middle of the yard. It had been installed without objection or complaints during major renovations in 2012, he said.

The heat pump, he said, underlines the need for the city to have a by-law for minor derogations to deal with small exemptions or variances to zoning by-laws.

Councillor Conrad Peart said this was



Miguel Escobar at city council October 7.

“something under discussion” but not actually being addressed right now while the city’s various planning by-laws are being updated.

He noted there would be a public consultation process.

Escobar offered his professional expertise to assist saying, “I suggest we start with a minor derogation by-law.”

This type of by-law is widely used in many municipalities for small variations such as building height, minimum distances between the lot line and building as well as landscape and parking requirements.

### ‘Most municipalities have’ one

“In any normal circumstances,” Escobar later explained, “most municipalities have a minor derogation by-law that may be applied for special circumstances like mine where there would be a major prejudice for the home owner if they would abide by the existing by-laws.

“Without a minor derogation by-law, one must ask for a major zoning change, which would never happen for cases like mine,” he added.

The possibility of such a by-law had been mentioned by the city’s Urban Planning director Tom Flies when the tool would have helped the city regularize the private use of a penthouse condo unit at 4140 Sherbrooke (see story May 7, p. 1).

Without a by-law for minor variances, the city had had to resort to the lengthy and complex SCAOPI by-law designed for non-conforming properties.



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## OPEN LETTER TO CLLR. PEART: TIRED OF TIRES

We're tired of being "tired" by Westmount's garbage contractor. The truck keeps rolling over our lawn, pushing a boulder ever closer to the abyss (see above). Calls to Westmount over a period of months have only brought promises to "look into" the matter.

BARBARA HOUGHTON GLASSMAN,  
CÔTE ST. ANTOINE

*Councillor Peart replies:* Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about our garbage contractor. I will follow up with the city administration to see if there is anything that we can do to nudge our contractors back into the lane.

CONRAD PEART, CITY COUNCILLOR  
(DISTRICT 4)

## THANKS FOR ART COVERAGE, EVENT

Many thanks to the *Westmount Independent* and reporter Heather Black for cover-

ing Art Westmount in the October 15 edition ("1,000+ people visit Art Westmount 2019," p. 12).

The event connects our vibrant culture of local artists to members of the community. As an author, often toiling alone, it was a privilege to participate. I had many enlightening conversations about books with all of you who stopped by!

I'm grateful to the city of Westmount, especially those who work in the Library and Community Events group, for their commitment to supporting the arts and to all the diligent volunteers who make Art Westmount possible.

CORA SIRÉ, KENSINGTON AVE.

## REMOVE, REPLACE DEAD TREES, PLEASE

Please find enclosed some pictures (top right) of dead trees in Westmount, a few among dozens I see in our community. I am mystified as to why they stand for years without being eliminated. They are a danger to pedestrians and car traffic, are



unsightly, and should be replaced by new saplings for future generations to enjoy. Surely the budget can be found to improve our stock of stately trees.

PETER HOWICK, ABERDEEN AVE.

*Editor's note:* You imply that all these trees are city owned. They may be, but all or some may not be. I urge anyone concerned about a tree to find its owner as a first step. In Westmount, there is no standard setback from the sidewalk to delineate city land from private land, so each case must be investigated individually. – DP.

## LETTER TO MAYOR SMITH ON RECYCLING, VIA THE INDEPENDENT

[Dear Mayor Smith,]

I read in a recent *Independent* (October 8, p. 5) that you were moved by the climate march. Are you really, or are you just another politician wanting praise for noticing there is a problem?

I have been after the city of Westmount for at least five years to do something beneficial to curb the amount of garbage that goes to the landfill. Twelve years ago, I moved to Westmount and was impressed that all residents were requested to compost and recycle, and we have been doing our part to re-direct garbage from the landfills to recycling facilities and composting, which in turn we pick up in the spring for our vegetable garden and flower boxes. That is a great part about Westmount!

However, the fact that our city's garbage cans are from the 1970s and all that goes into them goes to the landfills is embarrassing for me as a resident. I have been writing letters and voicing this issue to the city. I would think it would be the first priority of Westmount to do away with the old



and set up proper recycling collectors on our streets and in our parks.

This is shameful and I am beside myself that I see these systems set up in developing countries and other parts of North America and Europe and yet – in a city of affluence and one that prides itself on being a leader into the future – nothing has been done or is in the plans to be done.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## NEW RENO RULES, PLEASE

Around the world, we see people running for office campaign on various promises, but once in power discard these commitments to pursue their own personal agendas. Wait a minute here! I am talking about Westmount council.

Here are the facts. During the 2017 campaign, Mayor Smith and some councillors stated their commitment to update renovation guidelines for Westmount homes. For years, residents from the summit to the flat have raised major concerns with guidelines last updated in the mid 1980s. Our world with its new technology has moved on but Westmount remains stuck. This inaction hits the pocketbooks of residents wishing to update their homes. It forces them to pay for expensive and unwarranted types of renovations, ones they don't need or want. Case in point – just at this last council meeting on October 7, two residents brought up their permit denial cases, one being the rejection by the city of a metal-clad garage door, insisting instead on a solid wood door costing five times more according to the resident.

A comprehensive guideline update was launched by the former director of Urban Planning, Madame Poirier, about six years ago. The city has delivered nothing. It claimed lack of skilled resources. About a

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

year and a half ago, the city hired an expert in renovation guidelines on permanent staff. Mayor Smith committed in council last year that residents would see updated window guidelines in 2019. At council, she confirmed that in April and reconfirmed it just a couple of months ago. Two weeks ago, Mayor Smith breezily discarded this commitment to residents, saying that priorities have now changed and resources have been moved to other issues. The date is tentatively now spring 2020. Is there any reason to believe that?

This is unacceptable. Residents have made their interests known forcefully and clearly. Mayor Smith's campaign poster called for "A new generation to lead Westmount." They should remind themselves why they ran for office, whom they serve and their responsibilities to the community. Council can do better.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

### PHOTOS OF HOMELESS' SHELTERS VOYEURISTIC, PURPOSELESS

I would like to know the purpose of publishing the report and photos on October 22 (p. 13), headlined "One Atwater squatter camp abandoned, although another remains." With no background information to even allude to the many causes of and extent of homelessness in this area, this report is nothing but callous voyeurism, especially a detailed photo of someone's attempt to make a shelter for

him or herself.

How would the author like it if the *Independent* published a photo of the inside of his home without his permission?

Perhaps the *Independent* could take a lesson from Christopher Curtis, who writes extensively for the *Montreal Gazette* in a compassionate and humane way about homeless people. To actually inform Westmounters about the causes of homelessness and encourage them to support, not gawk at or condemn, their neighbours who need shelter would be print-worthy.

PATRICIA RILEY, ARGYLE AVE.

*Editor's reply:* What is the purpose of any journalism? The story was true and, in my opinion, interesting – for people who oppose squatters, for people who sympathize with them, and for the indifferent and undecided. That's usually enough for a story. We can always provide more context, but we have written for years about the homelessness in and around Cabot Square, so there seemed to be no great need to reiterate all our past coverage. Additionally, in the case of the photo of the shelter under the 720/136 overpass, the area in question is owned by the provincial ministry of Transport. Whatever is going on there, I will gladly assign stories about such public land, or buy them unsolicited. – DP.

### DUCK, DUCK, WESTMOUNT

I am happy to see (below) that Westmount Park has all its ducks in a row!

LYNN CAPLAN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.





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# Police officers execute arrest warrant on Greene Ave.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

An outstanding warrant for the arrest of a woman facing criminal charges brought more than a half-dozen Montreal Police officers from Station 12 to the corner of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. during the early afternoon of Oct. 12.

The charges against the 30-year-old woman included assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, as well as aggravated assault and forcible confinement, said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

A witness told the *Independent* that more than six Montreal Police officers were on the scene.

He said they were detaining a man and a woman who were seated on the ground outside the Greene Ave. TD Bank

branch.

Pimentel said it is normal police procedure to dispatch that number of officers for an arrest of this sort.

"Since it's a warrant for someone who committed assault, there was reason to believe this was somebody who could be armed," he said.

### 'Regular procedure'

"It is a regular procedure. When police officers are available, for safety reasons there is safety in numbers. There is no doubt about that."

Pimentel said the woman was a Montreal resident, although not from Westmount.

He said the alleged infractions stem from an incident that took place somewhere outside the Montreal area.



PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Infrastructure budget up for vote 2020 capital works

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city will unveil its capital works budget next Monday, November 4 at 7 pm, to be voted on during the council meeting

## program to be presented Nov. 4

that follows at 7:30 pm.

The date was announced last week by Mayor Christina Smith following a series of budget meetings and a presentation of the capital works program to a special session of the general committee of council October 22.

While a major amount of the recent budgets has been going into updating

streets, all the work that needs to be done is limited by the availability of funds, she said, but "people will see a shift in some of our big investment to buildings and parks."

Though details are under wraps till next week, the greenhouses, Westmount Park, city hall and Westmount Public Library are projects that have been reported to require funding.

### Westmount Park, cont'd. from p.1

(called a lake), grassed areas, trees and plants, benches, lighting, garbage cans and art pieces.

Though no figures are suggested, questions are also asked about the city's investment in the park or conversely, "Why do you think it is not important for the city to invest in the development of Westmount Park?"

Respondents are asked for their postal

code, length of time living in the city, gender, age group, main occupation and composition of the household.

The park's rehabilitation and changes, to be phased in over several years to address today's desires and repairs, have been discussed frequently at city council meetings as citizens expressed concerns about the public consultation process, preservation of the park's basic design and features as well as budget estimates.



Headliner  
Joey Elias



Opening Act  
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# infoWestmount

## Abonnez-vous À L'INFOLETTRE DE WESTMOUNT

Visitez le [westmount.org/ewestmount](http://westmount.org/ewestmount) pour vous abonner et recevoir les dernières nouvelles de votre Ville par courriel!

### HÔTEL DE VILLE

#### Sondage sur le parc Westmount

**Entre le 28 octobre et le 18 novembre**, la Ville vous invite à vous prononcer sur votre niveau de satisfaction, ainsi que vos habitudes de fréquentation et d'utilisation du parc Westmount. Visitez [participezwestmount.org](http://participezwestmount.org) ou procurez-vous une version imprimée du sondage à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.

#### Sondage sur les sports et loisirs : résultats

Les résultats du sondage sur l'utilisation des installations sportives et récréatives de la Ville et la participation aux programmes et activités sont disponibles en ligne. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### BIBLIOTHÈQUE

#### Atelier de poésie

**Mercredi 30 octobre, 10 h 15**, Bibliothèque. Avec Ann Lloyd. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

#### Une soirée avec Margaret Trudeau

**Mercredi 30 octobre, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. À partir de son histoire personnelle, l'icône canadienne parlera de l'importance de la santé du corps et de l'esprit. Billets : 20 \$. 514 989-5226.

#### Rencontres d'auteurs

**Mercredi 6 novembre, 19 h**, Bibliothèque. *Scythians, Silks, and Sufis: The Iranian Peoples in History from the Balkans to China*, avec Richard Foltz, l'auteur de *Iran in World History*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

#### Série Récits de voyages

**Judi à 10 h 30, ou vendredi à 13 h, du 7 novembre au 6 décembre**, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise : 514 989-5530 / [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org).

#### Vente de livres des Amis de la Bibliothèque

**Samedi et dimanche, 17 et 18 novembre, 10 h à 17 h**, Victoria Hall. Les fonds recueillis sont consacrés à l'achat de nouveau matériel pour la Bibliothèque.

### ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

#### Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

**Du 24 octobre au 26 novembre** : œuvres de Marcel Pinchevsky et Colin Thomson. Du lundi au vendredi, 10 h à 21 h; le samedi de 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5265.

### Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 novembre

#### Ciné-concert : *We Will Remember Them*

**Samedi 2 novembre, 19 h 30**, Victoria Hall. La musique des Fusiliers Mont-Royal présente un ciné-concert pour célébrer le 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du régiment. 514 989-5226.

#### Art et méditation pleine conscience

**Judi 7 novembre, 11 h**, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Participez à une séance de méditation guidée à la Galerie et abordez l'art d'une manière différente en utilisant la pleine conscience. Places limitées; inscription requise. 514 989-5226.

#### Salon des artisans de Westmount

**Samedi 9 novembre et dimanche 10 novembre, 10 h 30 à 17 h**, Victoria Hall. L'endroit idéal pour dénicher des créations uniques de qualité. Entrée : 2 \$ ou un don de denrées non périssables pour la guignolée annuelle de la Sécurité publique. 514 989-5226.

#### Cérémonie du jour du Souvenir

**Dimanche 10 novembre, 14 h**, Cénotaphe de Westmount. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux pour commémorer les Westmountais tombés au champ d'honneur. 514 989-5226.

### SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

#### Maison hantée 2019 : Chapelle noire

**Judi 31 octobre, 17 h 30 à 20 h**, pavillon de bowling. Une soirée terrifiante et amusante présentée par l'équipe de la Sécurité publique, avec un parcours alternatif pour les plus jeunes. Frissons garantis. Entrée gratuite, contributions acceptées au profit de Leucan. 514 989-5367.

### TRAVAUX PUBLICS

#### Parc Stayner : terrain de jeu ouvert

L'installation de nouveaux équipements au terrain de jeu du parc Stayner est maintenant terminée. Une balançoire multidirectionnelle, une bascule à ressort et une structure de jeux ont été installées dans l'aire de jeu. Nous vous remercions de votre patience pendant les travaux.

#### Collecte de feuilles et de résidus de jardin

Les feuilles et les résidus de jardin placés en bordure de rue dans des sacs de papier ou dans des contenants ouverts sont ramassés par la Ville régulièrement. Le dépôt du ch. Belvédère est aussi ouvert aux résidents (avec preuve de résidence) et aux entrepreneurs qui ont un permis de la Ville **du lundi au vendredi entre 7 h et 17 h jusqu'au 15 novembre**.

## Sign up TO WESTMOUNT E-NEWSLETTER

Visit [westmount.org/ewestmount](http://westmount.org/ewestmount) to subscribe and receive the latest news by email from your City!

### CITY HALL

#### Survey on Westmount Park

Between October 28 and November 18, the City invites you to express your opinion on your level of satisfaction, as well as your use and enjoyment of Westmount Park. Visit [engagewestmount.org](http://engagewestmount.org) or pick up a printed version of the survey at the Westmount Public Library.

#### Sports & Recreation survey results

The report on the survey on resident use of sports and recreation facilities and participation in municipal programmes is now available online. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### LIBRARY

#### Poetry workshop

Wednesday, October 16, 10 h 15, Library With Ann Lloyd. Everyone welcome. 514 989-5299.

#### An evening with Margaret Trudeau

Wednesday, October 30, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. The Canadian Icon will share her personal stories to remind others of the importance of nurturing the body, mind, and spirit. Tickets \$20. 514 989-5226.

#### Author Lecture Series

Wednesday, November 6, 7 p.m., Library. *Scythians, Silks, and Sufis: The Iranian Peoples in History from the Balkans to China*, with Richard Foltz, author of *Iran in World History*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

#### Tales and Travels Series

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or Fridays at 1 p.m., November 7 to December 6, Library. A weekly activity for individuals with Alzheimers disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required: [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org) / 514 989-5530.

#### Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, November 17 & 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Proceeds go toward the purchase of new materials for the Library.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Gallerly at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

October 24 to November 26. Works by Marcel Pinchevsky and Colin Thomson. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5265.

### Next Council Meeting Monday, November 4

#### Concert: *We Will Remember Them*

Saturday, November 2, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. La musique des Fusiliers Mont-Royal presents a ciné-concert to celebrate the regiment's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 514 989-5226.

#### Art and Mindfulness Meditation

Thursday, November 7, 11 a.m., Gallery at Victoria Hall. Partake in a guided meditation session and engage with art in a different way using mindfulness. Places limited; registration required. 514 989-5226.

#### Artisans Westmount

Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come admire the wonderful variety of quality items for sale by this year's fantastic artisans. Admission: \$2 or a donation of non-perishable food items for the Public Safety's annual holiday food drive. 514 989-5226.

#### Remembrance Day Ceremony

Sunday, November 10, 2 p.m., Westmount Cenotaph. Join City Council members to commemorate Westmounters who fell in battle. 514 989-5226.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Haunted House 2019: Dark Chapel

Thursday, October 31st, 8:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lawn bowling clubhouse. A terrifying and fun evening presented by the Public Safety team, with an alternative for younger visitors. Free contributions for Leucan accepted. 514 989-5367.

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### Stayner Park: Playground open

The installation of new equipment in the Stayner Park playground is now complete. New features in the play area include a multidirectional swing, a spring scale and a play structure. We thank you for your patience during the work.

#### Leaf and Garden Waste Collection

Leaves and garden waste placed curbside in paper bags or open containers will be collected by the City regularly. The Belvédère Rd. depot is open to residents (with proof of residence) and to contractors with a City permit Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. until November 15.



# Emma's Gems and The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle October brings Renaud's 2nd new book in '19, award nomination

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

October has been a month to remember for Westmount children's author Anne Renaud.

Not only was her latest book, *The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle*, hot off the press October 1, but the Ontario Library Association announced October 15 that *Emma's Gems*, launched in January, has been chosen as one of 10 nominees for its Blue

Spruce Awards. "It's always thrilling to be nominated," Renaud said last week.

In this case, as well, it means that many schools and libraries across Canada will be acquiring the 10 nominated books that the kids themselves will vote on during the school year for the awards in May.

Originally published in French seven years ago (see story October 16, 2012, p. 17), it was also nominated by the Ontario Library Association for its French awards.

Both of Renaud's new books are available at the Westmount Public Library.

### Popsicle invention

*The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle*, follows Renaud's folklore-based biography *Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*, about the invention of the potato chip, which last year won first prize for children's literature from the Canadian Writers' Association (see story November 27, 2018, p. 10.)

The "popsicle" invention also involved considerable research, she explained. This included tracking down descendants of "the boy" inventor, Frank William Epperson. It also involved obtaining permission with conditions from Unilever, which owns the registered "Popsicle" trade mark.

Like many of her other stories, this one has an underlying message.

It tells how the young Frank turned his inquisitiveness into discovering and developing ideas.

By age 11 he had brought forth a frozen treat on a stick – an idea he tucked away in his memory for many years until producing it for his own children and others in the early 1920s.

"And with all of them clamouring for their pop's tasty fabrications, in time, the name of Frank's invention was changed to... *The Popsicle*," the story concludes.

The book's pages are interspersed with scientific experiments for young readers



Anne Renaud with her latest books, seen here October 15.

and filled with whimsical colourful illustrations by Mila Pavlović. It is published by Kids Can Press.

### Generosity gems

The story of *Emma's Gems*, illustrated by Leanne Franson, introduces the concept of thinking of others and giving back, Renaud explained. It relates how Emma emulated her grandfather's habit of keeping three small stones in one pocket. When he carries out a good turn, he switches one to the other pocket.

"These are no ordinary stones," he tells her. "They are my generosity gems."

So Emma takes three beads from her bead collection and puts them in one pocket. Then before bed, after doing three good turns that day, she slips her "generosity gems" back into her other pocket to be ready for tomorrow, just like Grandpa Phil.

The recently published English version is published by Peanut Butter Press.

Renaud works at Westmount city hall as executive assistant to the mayor.

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## Fish introduces sister at book launch



Westmounter Laura Fish, right, was among a crowd of 300 well-wishers supporting her sister, Amy Fish, left, at the launch of her book, *I Wanted Fries With That: How to Ask for What You Want and Get What You Need*. Laura also introduced Amy at the event, held October 17 at the Jewish Public Library in Côte des Neiges.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA BORCHERTS/KAYE PUBLICITY.

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

Stephen's Church, homeless and itinerant persons – many of them indigenous women – around Cabot Square have been left without a soup kitchen, social services and a refuge from the weather.

The location was one of several that had been proposed at a meeting she and the council's general committee had held with various government and social services stakeholders September 3 (see story Sep-

tember 3, p. 1).

She said Chris Rogers of the city's Urban Planning department, who heads the Board of Inspections, had worked hard to make the location happen.

Called Resilience Montreal, the shelter is reported to provide access to showers, drug and alcohol counselling, food and an area to sleep. It is expected to operate between 8 am and 8 pm.

With some \$600,000 from the city of

## Holden Rothman wins a Vine

Westmount author Claire Holden Rothman was one of five winners of a 2019 Vine award for Canadian Jewish literature, which she accepted in person in Toronto October 23. Winners received \$10,000.

She won for *Lear's Shadow*, which, according to her publisher's website, is a "captivating novel about aging fathers and their grown daughters, childhood scars, and rewriting the script with a little help from Shakespeare."

The Vine jury said: "The writer's command of the elements of the novel – setting, character, pace – are what distinguish this revision of Shakespeare by way of contemporary Montreal."

Due to the awards' deadline, the win "came as a total surprise" to her for this summer 2018 novel.

Holden Rothman describes herself as "Over the moon," especially given the announcement timing "just before the Jewish New Year," she told the *Independent* by email October 24.

"My two previous novels, *The Heart Specialist* and *My October*, received nominations for national prizes (Giller and Governor General), but this is the first time that I have actually won a prize for a novel. And what a prize!

"The Jewish aspect is meaningful to me. I'm really happy and grateful for this recognition from the community."

Montreal and other sources, it is being put together by a group of women from the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and the Nazareth community. Architecture Without Borders Quebec is converting the space into a functional shelter in time for November.

At the city's council meeting September 3, Westmount voted to contribute \$16,000 toward the Native Women's Shelter's mediation service (see story September 10, p. 9).



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## Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Santa's Lil' Helper and Martha were rescued from the South Korean dog meat trade. Thankfully, they were seized and are now sheltered here in Montreal. This is a difficult subject, but the tide is turning thanks to outrage in the international community and the dedication of Humane Society International. Santa is so affectionate and playful, as you can see. Martha is a sweet huskie who is so happy with a toy and socializing with others. They are two of 60 dogs that HSI is caring for.

The next step is for Santa and Martha to be placed with rescues that handle adoption. If you would like to adopt, please contact its office at 514.395.2914x0 to enter the adoption plan. For more information,

# Santa's Lil' Helper and Martha

please refer to its Facebook page at [Facebook.com/hsicanada](https://www.facebook.com/hsicanada).

### Humane Society event at Atwater Club

If you would like to find out more about its extraordinary programs, Humane Society International Canada will be hosting its "Rescue Me" fundraising social event evening at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave., on November 6 at 6 pm.

Let's join them for wine, canapés, live music and a silent auction. Auction items keep coming in from generous donors, but I can already see that wonderful event tickets, sports items, art, wine tasting, fashion, etc. will be of interest to all.

Let's be generous as all funds raised will go towards animal rescue and emergency sheltering. For tickets, please go online at [hsi.org/rescueme](http://hsi.org/rescueme) or call them directly at 514.395.2914.

Looking forward to seeing you there!  
Your neighbour, Lysanne



Santa.



Martha.



## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

# Ohhh the Persians....



Gilbert and Sullivan

Breathtaking and affectionate, these two dandies are ready for a family together. Gilbert and Sullivan, fluffy Gilly and Sully, with their wonderful cream-and-gold coats, pink noses, amber eyes and loving natures. They could be sunning themselves on your window sills, showing their pink toes, then brushing up to cuddle when mealtimes are possible if they trot behind you to the kitchen.

Solidly healthy at eight years of age, these sweethearts are available for adoption from the Chatopia volunteer charitable organization.

At Chatopia, volunteers are dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing pure-bred cats. Please refer to its website [www.chatopia.ca](http://www.chatopia.ca) and complete an application form or contact them by email at [info@chatopia.ca](mailto:info@chatopia.ca) for the adoption of stunning Gilbert and Sullivan.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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# Local fashion show raises funds for Hope & Cope



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **Vivian and Howard Stotland** graciously sponsored and hosted the 3rd Annual Luxury Fashion Show in their stylish home.

Appropriate for the trendy night, guests arrived looking, well, trendy. Not only were handbags the very latest of the season, but shoes also caught the eye. Heels glittered with crystals, sported pearl studs and even fluttering feathers.

Participating in the fashion presentation were TNT, Lysa Lash Furs (mink, sable, chinchilla etc.), jewellery from the appropriately named Arm Candy MTL and fabulous vintage pieces – jewels and handbags – from Robert Poirier of Poirier-Schweitzer.

The eve was a fundraiser for Tell Cancer to Take a Hike benefitting Hope & Cope. Fashion show sales donated 20 percent and 100 percent of ticket sales was donated.

Organizers of the fun night were **Etty**



Vivian and Howard Stotland.

**Bienstock, Vivian Stotland, Sheila Garfield, Bridgit Bienstock, Lysa Lash, Jordan Grover, Beverlee Ashmele, Kara Crudo and Heather Paperman.**

Noted were local res **Marlene and Joel King**. On August 25, 2020, they are co-chairing what promises to be a sensational

soirée – a well-deserved tribute for Hope and Cope founder and past chair **Shelia Kussner**, looking radiant in a chic couture white blazer.

MC was celebrity stylist **Cary Tauben** whose flowing animal print pantsuit was accessorized with large hoop earrings and



Joel and Marlene King, behind Suzanne O'Brien and Sheila Kussner.

a hand-held fan. Greeting guests were **Annette Novak** and **Lova Tomara**.

Local res noted in the squeeze-room-only salon included **Linda Smith, Andrew Hops, Gloria Bass, Ronnie Dobrin, and Jennifer Campbell**. Also ..... seen were **Lenny Lighter** *continued on p. 14*

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Barbara Seal, Helen Cons and Emmelle Segal.

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**Social notes**, *cont'd. from p. 13*

and daughter **Lauren Lighter**, **Susan Leopold**, **Frank Haberkorn**, **Eric Ouaknine**, **Sylvie Amar**, **Anne Brownstein**, **Penny Levine**, **Bernice Brownstein**, **Shirley Gold-**

**farb**, **Emmelle Segal**, **Joy Bultz**, **Barbara Seal**, **Lynn Magdell**, **Helen Cons**, **Julie Turcotte** and **Suzanne O'Brien**, board chair **Hope & Cope**.

Glam models were **Therese Brownstein**, **Olga Huk**, **Claudia Iacono**, **Stepha-**

**nie Lighter** and **Marta Wiseman**. Java U served marvelous mushroom pasta, salmon poké bowls and much-loved pastries.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

City's Hallowe'en haunted house. 5:30 to 8 pm.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Presentation of city's capital works budget. City hall. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Contactivity Centre craft sale and bazaar. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonnueve Blvd. 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

City's Remembrance service. Westmount Cenotaph. 2 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Public consultation on Westmount Park. Victoria Hall. 7 pm.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

► Treats & Treasures Craft Sale & Bazaar.

Free. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., 10 am to 4 pm.

► "Why am I Afraid to Change?" (videos in English with French subtitles) presented by The Krishnamurti Information Centre of Montreal. \$7. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 2-4 pm,

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Regular, mid-month city council meeting. City hall. 5:30 pm.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

"Marian Dale Scott: A Studio of Her Own" by Gwendolyn Owens, McGill University. \$5. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. 7 to 9 pm.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

J.S. Bach's *The Brandenburg Concertos* by AKAMUS Orchester Berlin. \$25 to \$105. St. Léon Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 7:30 pm.

Also: J.S. Bach's *The Orchestral Suites*. Saturday, November 23. 7:30 pm.

ONGOING

Parenthood drop-in. Free. Two Doulas is partnering with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom to offer a weekly drop-in for coffee, cookies, and company with your babies (one year and younger). Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon.

To include your Westmount event in Comin' Up, please write us a brief note in the above format (date, event, price, location, time of day) to editor@westmountindependent.com.

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Police Report

Police to merchants: Don't tempt after-hour burglars

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. are reminding store owners that it's never a good idea to leave the day's sales receipts behind in the cash register as this can be too much of a temptation for burglars always on the lookout for opportunities.

The warning comes following a break-in at a store on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Victoria Ave. sometime between 6:30 pm on October 15 and 6:45 am on October 16.

According to a report of the incident by the police, a store attendant who arrived to open for business found that the money box under the cash register appeared to have been forced open.

"There were signs it was tampered with," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "When she looked, she noticed that the cash that had been in it was also gone."

According to Pimentel, a second cash box had also been forced and money was missing. He said the police department's identification unit was called in to check all over the store to see if the suspects left behind fingerprints.

"Usually with cash boxes, what we recommend to store owners is to leave them open to show there's no money left behind," he added. "It avoids the headache of anyone breaking in."

"In most cases, even if there is a break-in, the loss isn't worth what's in the drawer as much as the damage to the door, windows or cash box of the business. That usually ends up being more of a loss."

Mercedes entered

Sometime between October 10 at 9 pm and October 11 at 3 pm, a Mercedes parked on Metcalfe Ave. near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. was entered illegally by an unknown suspect who stole a few items.

There was no evidence of forced entry such as damage to the car or broken window glass on the ground, according to Pimentel, leading the investigators to believe the car wasn't locked. The stolen items included a jacket and a first-aid kit, he added.

Remote control stolen

Another car break-in incident, this time on Victoria Ave., happened sometime between October 17 at 5 pm and October 18 at 8:30 am. A remote control, probably for

a garage door opener, was stolen from a grey Audi.

While police in some districts of Montreal sometimes report incidents involving the theft of remote control garage door openers by thieves seeking an easy way to break into homes, Pimentel noted that garage doors operated by remote can be re-programmed when necessary.

Volkswagen broken into

A third car break-in was committed on

Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Metcalfe Ave. sometime between 9 and 11 am on October 18.

In this case, a laptop computer and a suitcase were stolen from inside a black Volkswagen.

Pimentel called it a "crime of opportunity," as the owner appears to have left both items in plain view for anyone with ill intentions passing by to see.

Force was used to gain entry, as a passenger-side window was found broken

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