Weekly. Vol. 14 No. 11b We are Westmount November 10, 2020

Pandemic, Metro grocery renovations don't stop poppy sales





Remembrance Day poppies have been sold at the Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. for as long as the *Independent* can remember. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic and store renovations are giving things a different look, but not stopping volunteers like the Royal Montreal Regiment's honorary colonel, Colin Robinson (left, both pictures), from selling them. Nor is it keeping members of the public from buying them, including Margot Boucaut (left) who remembers her grandfather – a general in the French air force during the Algerian war of independence – and Stephen Phizicky (right), whose father was a member of the RMR who fought during World War II in North Africa, Sicily, Holland and Germany, both on November 3. Please see p. 5, 6 and 9 for more Remembrance Day news.



Revah: 'Next thing is to prepare ... a major lawsuit'

Developer says Mountainside Church could become a mosque

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The developer who purchased Mountainside United Church two years ago with the goal of re-developing it into a residential property says he has grown tired of

Cllr. Lulham recognized for 25 years on council, see p. 26

waiting for the city of Westmount to give the go-ahead and hopes to lease the building out to a Muslim congregation as early as next August.

After purchasing the landmark building on Roslyn Ave. at the corner of The Boulevard in the fall of 2018, Daniel Revah of Corev Immobilier, who is a Westmounter, told the *Independent* at the time (October 9, 2018, p. 1) *continued on p. 19*





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Family recovered from COVID

Mayor Smith says 'thank you' to well-wishers



Mayor Christina Smith opened the virtual council meeting November 2 with "a heartfelt thankyou" to the many who had sent messages to her and her family during their quarantine after testing positive for the coronavirus October 16.

"We are back to work and the kids are back to school," she explained, while shown on Zoom to be in her city hall office.

It was "a reminder" of how important it is to look out for a neighbour or friends who have tested COVID positive "because they are really isolated," she said. If this is not possible, the city can be contacted "and we will ensure they are taken care of."

■ Mayor Christina Smith, photographed on November 6 in front of the Lawn Bowling Club with city hall in the background. She told the Independent that she and her family were feeling much better, with just a little fatigue remaining. "It must be very hard for people who live alone," she added. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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'Library honey' on sale November 9

The bees that live in two hives on the roof of the Westmount Public Library have produced 216 jars of honey this year, according to library director Julie-Anne Cardella. This compares with 288 last year.

The honey can be purchased at the pickup entrance at the usual \$5 a jar for a maximum of four jars and with exact change only because of COVID.

The library's new curbside hours are: Monday and Wednesday 1 to 5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 7 pm and Friday 10

The first hive was installed in the spring of 2014, funded initially by proceeds from

the city's plant exchange (see story May 8, 2014). The second one was added the next year. Both are now self-sustaining from the sale of the honey.

Letters, p. 20

Return to Retail (Salon Sophie), p. 25

9 Lives, p. 23

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Permits, p. 22

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Claremeat



Meat was being aged on the front stoop of this house on Claremont Ave. November 4. To the best of *Independent*'s knowledge, this is a Westmount first.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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After year-long delay

Feasibility study on indoor pool gets green light to proceed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A second step in gathering information on a potential indoor pool received a go-



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ahead at the virtual council meeting November 2 when the contract for a feasibility study was awarded at a maximum of \$99,000 to TLA Architects.

This was described by Mayor Christina Smith as "an important step" in moving the project forward as it had been explained in October 2019 by Councillor Mary Gallery when the council approved an evaluation grid for assessing potential bidders.

Since then, the feasibility study to identify possible locations, costs, operation and management of a potential pool had been stalled in the development of a tender document (see story October 15, 2019).

It's a follow-up to the first stage, said Councillor Mary Gallery in moving the contract resolution. The stage 1 assessment study found that the city was "right on the line" for being underserved by an indoor pool (see story July 9, p. 1).

The contract that was finally awarded last week was described as a "professional assessment" mandate called: "Stage 2 functional and technical program and assessment of proposed sites."

Cenotaph area to be dedicated as 'Vimy Park'

No public Remembrance event this year - small ceremony to be livestreamed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's public Remembrance Day ceremony – held typically at the cenotaph on the closest Sunday to November 11 will not take place this year, Mayor Christina Smith announced at the city council meeting November 2. This is in accordance with the Quebec government's restrictions on gatherings.

"Unfortunately," she said, "Remembrance Day will look a little different this year" as municipalities across Canada downsize their ceremonies.

Instead of inviting the public to the ceremony held in connection with the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) on parade, a "small" city observance featuring three levels of government to lay wreaths will be livestreamed on November 11 from the war memorial. This is to be viewed on the city website starting at 11 am.

Mayor Smith will also dedicate the point of greenspace east of Argyle which surrounds the cenotaph as "Vimy Park."

The Vimy Ridge battle in World War I claimed the lives of 98 members of Westmount's Royal Montreal Regiment and left another 176 wounded, some of the casualties being Westmount residents (see story April 4, p. 1, 2017).

The city's Public Security Unit is "encouraging families" to post drawings of poppies as a sign of remembrance in their windows, said Councillor Anitra Bostock, public security commissioner. This the same way many people have been displaying rainbows as a COVID-19 symbol of hope.

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Guest column

The Westmount Battery remembers

BY PATRICK MARTIN

It was just before Remembrance Day 12 years ago that I wrote an article in the *Independent* in honour of those who had given their lives fighting for our country in the two world wars ("Remembering those we never knew," November 18, 2008, p. 6).

In it, I spoke of the sacred duty to never forget their sacrifice, and the challenge of remembering some of them as more than just names on a monument. In particular, I think of my grandfather Philip Martin and his son, my uncle Hugh, who died serving in the First and Second World Wars respectively. And I think of their family which also lost so much. Sadness for the tragedy of war is an emotion we all can share.

In addition to our beautiful cenotaph and the honour roll in Victoria Hall, we have other symbols of historical remembrance in Westmount. At one time in the park near the library, there were two German cannon that had been captured at Vimy Ridge in 1917 – a striking reminder of Canadian courage in battle. During World War II, the federal government took them away to be melted down for military use.

Two 12-pound cannon

However, two other, very different cannon remained on display in the park for many decades. These were the 12-pound, muzzle-loaded set of two that dated from an even earlier era. The "12-lbs." refers to the weight of the projectile the weapon could fire, to a distance of 1,100 meters. They were British cannon dated from 1810, and their consecutive serial numbers indicate that they have been a pair for 210 years. Quite remarkable!

Their earliest history is the subject of continuing research. Did they serve here in the War of 1812 against the USA? Were they at Waterloo in Europe in 1814? The Fenian raids in Canada in the 1830s? What we do know is that they were formally transferred to the Canadian militia in 1870, shortly after Confederation. They more



likely had a purely ceremonial role, given that muzzle-loaded cannon were considered obsolete by the 1840s, having been replaced by faster breech loading guns.

Final ceremonial firing?

The last time that they have been fired ceremonially may have been right here in Westmount, on the grounds of the St. George Snowshoe Clubhouse (site of today's St. George's junior school on The Boulevard). The year was 1897, and the celebration was in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

(To be clear, there is some debate whether the cannon in the 1897 photo is of 12 or 9 lbs.)

Soon after, the government decided to scrap the old 12-lb cannon, but a local fraternal order, the Sons of England, stepped in and acquired them for donation to the city of Westmount. They were installed in the then-new Westmount Park, and became very popular with the citizenry.

Children loved to clamber over them, and there are many photo records of kids sitting on the barrels, from the Roper



Former Westmounters Beverley and Wayne Higgins in the 1960s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Westmount Battery with 1810 cannon at 2019 Westmount Remembrance ceremony. Photo courtesy of the Westmount Historical Association.

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children in 1905 to almost every other local child until recent years.

Wooden carriages

Over time, these museum-worthy cannon became familiar icons, indicative of the community's respect for history and tradition. Unfortunately, the wooden carriages and wheels did not survive the weather very well, sitting in snow for four months every year. They had to be replaced periodically with parts not replicating the original design. Some 20 years ago, both cannon were removed to storage for safe-keeping.

While serving on city council (2006-2017), I became involved with a group of volunteers attached to the nearby Canadian 2nd Field Artillery Regiment and have continued working with them to coordinate restoration of the prized bronze barrels and the painstaking recreation of historically accurate carriages, with financial support from the city. The newly-restored cannon are now kept in a secure place, with plans to bring them out for ceremonial occasions, parades and other appropriate events. One of them first appeared publicly at last year's Remembrance ceremony, but that is not possible

this year due to the pandemic.

Westmount Battery

The volunteers, now known officially as the Westmount Battery, are creating a historical re-enactment group, in period uniform of the Canadian militia, to accompany the cannon at parades and other public appearances.

As ambassadors of Westmount, they could participate in ceremonies both locally and in nearby communities, keeping memory alive and honouring the sacrifices of those who serve in our country's armed forces. Another project being considered is the involvement of local young people as cadets, instilling them with pride of country and of service.

The battery plans to purchase period uniforms and to add accurate peripheral equipment to make the cannon truly representative of their era, and we hope to raise \$30,000 towards this mission. The goal is to continue the tradition of remembrance for the next 200 years, with the 210-year-old cannon as a strong symbol of our everlasting respect for those who fought for us

If you have family photos of the cannon for our collection, or if you would like to contribute to the fund for their preservation, or for the period uniforms, you may contact us at westmount.battery@gmail.com

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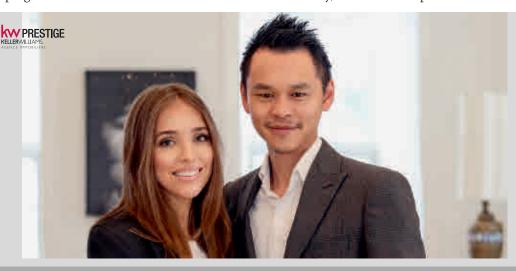
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'Poppy is powerful symbol'

RMR Association launches 'Poppy by Mail'

Branch 14 of the Royal Canadian Legion, also known as the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) Association, launched "Poppy by Mail" – poppybymail.ca – on November 4. According to a press release issued the same day, it is "a secure website that allows Canadians to make donations and receive poppies by Canada Post."

The regiment and association are based in Westmount at the armoury on St. Catherine St. just east of the Westmount recreation centre.

Poppy fund

Poppy by Mail is run by volunteers, with all proceeds going directly to the branch's Poppy Fund, continued the release. It is intended for individuals and families and is

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limited to five poppies per donation. Schools and other institutions are asked to visit the Legion's Dominion Command for alternate fulfillment solutions.

"There is a tremendous demand for poppies from the public," Colin Robinson, a veteran and the unit's honorary colonel, is quoted as saying. "The poppy is one of Canada's most powerful symbols and we are committed to remembrance, even during this pandemic. Our veterans always found a way to overcome adversity. Today, we are confronting COVID-19, and we will prevail."

Young volunteers

"We are lucky to have a membership including a lot of younger veterans, who can participate in the poppy drive despite the pandemic," Sue Guerin, the president of Branch 14, is quoted as saying.

"However, social distancing requirements have forced us to close about two thirds of usual poppy kiosks. Poppy by Mail allows us to protect the public and our older veterans, while actively encouraging the act of remembrance."



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Concrete pouring of pool follows repairs to slab, walls

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New concrete was poured at the pool of the Westmount recreation centre last week following some two months to repair the pool.

According to city director general Benoit Hurtubise, this work had involved cor-

recting 610 square meters of the pool's concrete base, 130 square meters of the pool's walls, installation of one new concrete joint and repainting 980 square meters of the pool's surfaces.

At the October 5 meeting of city council, an additional \$59,244 was approved for the repairs to the slab and walls, bringing the

total to a maximum of \$552,685, taxes included. This was required to provide a larger contingency when it was found there might be a few more micro-cracks to repair (see story October 13, p. 17).

The original defects had been investigated and discussed publicly since 2018 when the council agreed to take legal steps

if necessary against the contractor and monitoring firm after it was determined the original concrete had not been poured thickly enough on top of the metal rebar reinforcement (see story September 11, 2018, p. 1). The project has been coordinated by Elisa Gaetano, director of Engineering, and her team, Hurtubise said.

Mercredi 11 novembre 2020 à 10 h 45

94^e Cérémonie Jour du Souvenir Virtuelle sur facebook

En raison de la pandémie de la COVID-19 et des mesures sanitaires imposées par le gouvernement du Québec, la Ville de Westmount ne tiendra pas sa traditionnelle cérémonie publique pour le jour du Souvenir.

Le mercredi 11 novembre à 10 h 45, les citoyens sont invités à voir une cérémonie en direct sur la page Facebook de la Ville durant laquelle les membres du Conseil et des représentants du gouvernement déposeront des couronnes de fleurs. facebook.com/villedewestmount

Au cours de cette cérémonie, la mairesse nommera officiellement le parc entourant le cénotaphe en tant que parc de Vimy. Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 10:45 a.m.

94TH REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY VIRTUAL ON FACEBOOK

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary measures imposed by the Gouvernement du Québec, the City of Westmount will not be holding its traditional public ceremony to mark Remembrance Day.

Citizens are invited to view the laying of wreaths by Council and Government officials live on the City's Facebook page on Wednesday, November 11 at 10:45 a.m. facebook.com/villedewestmount

During this ceremony, the Mayor will also be dedicating the park surrounding the Cenotaph as Vimy Park.



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You are always there when your loved ones are going through difficult times. But don't forget about yourself—solutions exist to help you feel better.

The current situation may cause you distress. Experiencing various levels of anxiety in some spheres of life is normal. When this happens, you may find it more challenging to deal with your thoughts, emotions, behaviour and relationships with others. Most people succeed in adapting, but listening to your needs is vital. Don't hesitate to do whatever is necessary to help yourself.

Take care of yourself

- Rely on your personal strengths and have confidence in your abilities.
- Remind yourself of the winning strategies you used in the past to overcome difficulties. There is no one-size-fits-all solution! Each and every one of us must take steps to foster our own well-being.
- Enjoy life's little pleasures, such as listening to music, taking a warm bath, reading, exercising, etc.
- If you live close to nature, make the most of it. Breathe deeply and slowly as you walk.
- Learn to delegate, and allow others to help you.
- Ask for help when you feel overwhelmed. It is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength when you are strong enough to do what is necessary to help yourself.

- Lend a hand in your community in a way that respects your personal limits and public health directives. By helping others, you can improve their wellness and your own as well.
- Think about what has meaning and value for you. Reflect on the important things in your life that you can hold onto in hard times.
- Reduce the stressors in your life.
- While it is important to stay informed, limit the amount of time spent reading about COVID-19. Information overload can increase stress and anxiety, and even cause depression.



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Votre gouvernement



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- Use words to express what you are going through. Do you feel alone? Are vou worried?
- Allow yourself to share your feelings with a trusted friend or family member. It might also be helpful to write down how you're feeling or call a helpline. Find what works for you!
- Those closest to you may not necessarily be able to "read" you. Express your feelings.
- · Leave space in your life for your feelings and those of your loved ones.



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- · Watch videos that make you smile.



Choose healthy living habits

- Try to keep to a routine for eating, resting, sleeping and other daily activities.
- Take time to eat well.
- Go to bed at an hour that lets you get enough sleep.
- Be physically active on a regular basis, while complying with public health directives.
- Reduce your consumption of stimulants like coffee, tea, soft drinks, energy beverages, chocolate, etc.
- Drink lots of water.
- Lower your alcohol, drug and tobacco consumption, or simply say no to them entirely. The same goes for gambling.

Help and resources

We are all going through unprecedented times that can intensify our emotional reactions. For example, you might feel greater fatigue or have fears that you can't shake, or even have trouble just dealing with the day-today. Focus on these signs of a problem and, as soon as you can, contact resources that can help you to better manage your feelings and develop new coping strategies.

- Info-Social 811 Info-Social 811 is a free and confidential telephone consultation service available 24/7
- Regroupement des services d'intervention de crise du Québec Provides 24/7 referral services for people in distress (French): centredecrise.ca/listecentres
- Tel-Aide Helpline that provides 24/7 assistance to people who are isolated, in distress or need someone to talk to: 514 935-1101
- Écoute Entraide Community organization that supports people experiencing emotional distress: 514 278-2130 or 1855 EN LIGNE (365-4463)
- Suicide prevention crisis helpline Crisis helpline that provides suicide prevention services 24/7: 1866 APPELLE (277-3553)

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No update from EMSB

Westmount Park School work continues



The Independent has been unable to get any updates from the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) on the work at Westmount Park School, but workers sure were set to use a lot of styrofoam boxes, above, and dirt, below, on November 5. When moving and then work started at the school in July and August 2019, we reported that it would be closed for two years for a \$12.5million renovation.



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+1-514-525-8777 montreal@akelius.ca akeliusmontreal.ca Colquhoun: More families to care for during pandemic

Public Security's holiday food, donation drive starts this week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security's holiday food drive was set to kick off Monday, November 9 with a changed and expanded list of collectable items but without the usual drop-off venues owing to the pandemic closure of municipal buildings. (A plan last week to use the Westmount recreation centre as previously thought is now no longer feasible, officials said.)

However, the two annual one-day campaigns outside Les 5 Saisons and Metro grocery stores will take place as announced by Councillor Anitra Bostock at the city council meeting November 2.

On the other hand, the scope of donations - which previously was limited to non-perishable items and cash for the pur-

chase of turkeys, hams and food vouchers - will now include a wide range of personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toilet paper, and gift cards from pharmacies, toy stores and grocery stores.

A long list of suggested items has been prepared for posting on the city's website.

Last year, the drive generated \$3,600, which, along with non-perishable food donations, provided for food baskets for 26 families in need for a total of 66 people in Westmount and the adjacent area (see story January 28, 2020, p. 7).

"This year, the CLSC has given us a longer list of families to help over COVID," assistant Public Security director Kimberley Colquhoun told the Independent last week.

In order for people to make cash dona-



Last year, Public Security officers Matthew Talarico, left, and Stéphanie Rodrigues joined the unit's mascot "Bee Safe" on December 3 for a food drive outside the Metro grocery store on Victoria. The team also raised \$250 in cash donations, reported department director Greg McBain. This event coincided with "Giving Tuesday," but Public Security's 2019 food drive had begun at the Artisans Festival at Victoria Hall November 9.

tions this year, she expects to have a "monetary button" on the website later this month. Gift cards can be placed in the mail slot at the city hall addressed to Public Security or an officer can pick them up during a door-to-door collection day, November 29. To participate, 514.989.5367.

"This is when we're asking people to

leave non-perishable food on their front porch for pick-up," she said. It's on the following day that a patrol car will be stationed outside Les 5 Saisons to collect food followed by the Giving Tuesday collection outside the Metro store.

Anyone seeking additional information is asked to call Colquhoun at 514.989.5367.

Westmount Park consultation, designs presentation on Zoom Nov. 18

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting on refur-

bishing Westmount Park that had been de-

You are in good hands

layed from March 18 due to the pandemic will now be held by Zoom November 18, Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the virtual council meeting November 2.

It takes place from 7 to 8:30 pm.

This is to include a presentation from the Stantec consultants of proposed designs – or preliminary recommendations

- resulting from a consolidation of data from a previous survey on residents' park use and priorities as well as feedback from a public consultation meeting November 13 at Victoria Hall.

A survey to be launched at the same time will provide residents with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed designs, which will lead to final recommendations, Lulham said.

Postcards "inviting" residents to attend the upcoming Zoom session will include an access code for participation.

Those planning to attend the "meeting" are asked to review the consolidated data, which was posted on the city's website last week. "The commonality" between the user survey of October 28, 2019 and the Lulham said.

is positive, then Stantec will cost out the required work leading to the hiring of a landscape architect to prepare plans on specific aspects, she explained.





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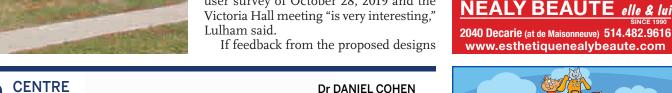
Bon courage • Be safe

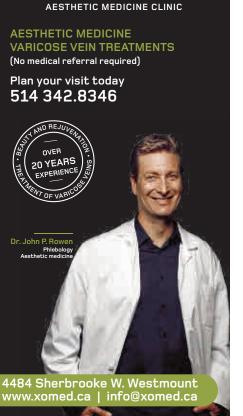
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Mountainside, cont'd. from p. 1

that he was planning to build "probably houses and condos," while saying the church itself had the potential to sell as a large private home.

The large property is currently zoned for religious activities, according to Westmount director general Benoit Hurtubise. However, the church building is classified by the city as Category 1, meaning strict rules apply for any proposed changes.

In an interview last week, Revah said he had been lobbying the city for the past year to modify the zoning. Saying he had lost patience with Westmount's slowness, he said he sent the city a lawyer's letter several months ago serving notice of impending legal action.

"That's where I am today," said Revah. "The next thing is to prepare what is going to be a major lawsuit. They asked me to be patient, but time is running out. It's two years and a few months I'm waiting.

"I have to make this thing work," added Revah. "That's why I'm making a proposal to another church. And so far, the only people who've visited have been from a mosque."

Revah insisted that in addition to its religious zoning, Mountainside Church is also zoned for single-family residential development. "It has multiple zoning," he said

Regarding the church's zoning, Hurtubise told the *Independent* last week, "I can confirm that the lot itself is not zoned to have residential units and condo units. It would require a change of zoning. If the promoter wishes to have residential units, there would be a whole re-zoning involved."

Hurtubise said the church's future is largely being determined now in the context of the city's Imagine Westmount 2040 consultation project, which involves a major revision of Westmount's master urban plan.

"For houses of worship, the city does not wish to establish zoning changes at this time, because it wants to go through the whole process before the city and its council would look if re-zoning would be required or not," Hurtubise said.

Under terms of an agreement made with the buyer in 2018, the Mountainside congregation was given three years to stay before moving out.

Alexander Cappellazzo, an administrator for the church, told the *Independent* that although the congregation technically still occupies the building, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced its activities to a minimum over the past few months.

Asked if he was aware a new tenant



Seen here on November 5, Mountainside United Church on The Boulevard in Westmount may have a mosque under its roof by August next year, according to the developer.

might be moving in, Cappellazzo said the congregation's members "are probably more concerned about where we are head-

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ing than who's coming in.

"That's probably where our current mindset is right now."





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, CHEZ NICK, FOR FRIENDSHIP, OASIS AND NORMALCY

Those of us lucky enough to know Chez Nick and to consider it part of our lives – like a reliable friend – have witnessed its unfailing loyalty to the community, its good will, and its marvelous inventiveness ever since the first restaurant shut-down on March 23.

Not only did they stay cheerfully open for take-out, but Rob Callard and his partner Nicos Kyriakopoulos thoughtfully provided their customers, and Greene Ave. strollers, with two lovely wrought-iron benches on their doorstep.

Rainy and morose weather eventually gave way to sunny Saturdays in April, and the breakfast *habitués* lightheartedly gathered in front of Nick's for bagels with lox and a chat.

Of course, a few chairs were found and placed on the sidewalk, at the required distance, and soon an out-of-nowhere ribbon of felicity tied together a handful of serendipitous guests of the House-of-Nick, who, when they dispersed, took away with them the feeling that they had found more than they were seeking.

The impromptu *rendez-vous* was faithfully kept over and over in May and into Iune.

Then came June 22, and we could cross the threshold: inside, the space awaited us, newly protective but warmly familiar.

And friendly familiar faces re-appeared one by one: Andrew, Caroline, Juliette,

Jenny (Iphigenia – in truth, one of royal birth).

Each returning face restored the world – the simple normalcy of "before."

Summer went by as quickly as a wink. Especially since at the start of July, lo and behold, in the portion of street now allotted to strolling and leisure – almost a boardwalk! – there rose a pine-wood terrace, constructed by Nico (as he is affectionately called) in a mere three days.

Umbrellas and potted flowers adorning its four corners soon followed, thanks to Rob. Suddenly, Greene Ave. took on the European look of a resort town.

Summer turned into fall. But on gray days with heavy skies, on Greene Ave., the golden colour of Nick's pine terrace offered a warming sight. While we took shelter inside the restaurant, it waited there patiently and we quickly returned to it again with the first rays of sunshine, like happy sparrows, to drink Rob's "heavenly" coffee (a revealable secret recipe) and enjoy food prepared with care and tirelessly adjusted to personal tastes.

On October 1, came another shut-down: only take-out once again. Never mind, we would not abandon Chez Nick. Neither would it abandon us. Faithfully, with masks on, we went in one at a time, to be greeted by familiar faces whose smiles their masks could not hide.

And did we have to stand in the street to savour our purchases? No. Miraculously, we could sit on the terrace because Rob and Nick had left a few tables and chairs there, just in case...

And despite the chill in the air as October advanced, on brighter days people in the neighbourhood felt lucky to find themselves unexpectedly in a sunny oasis on Nick's terrace.

We knew it had to end: the licence for the terrace expired on November 1.

Sadness. The following morning, the empty space where it had stood spoke of desolation.

And then what happened? Those of us who braved the cold the next morning for the sake of Nick's delectable take-out breakfast found that instead of the empty stretch of street we expected to see there, three tables had sprung up on the sidewalk, like giant friendly mushrooms, to give us refuge and create a Miracle on Greene Ave. (our own 34th Street).

For all this, dear Chez Nick, we are immensely grateful.

Agnès Jacob, Clarke Ave.

COLOUR, NOT BURIAL MOUNDS, PLEASE

I have always enjoyed visiting Westmount's parks every summer to see the creative arrangements of flowers and vegetables installed by the horticultural department.

A couple of years ago the intersection of Windsor Ave. and Prince Albert Ave. was reconfigured and a space was added at each corner for plants.

I am curious about the choice of burgundy-leaved plants this past summer (see photo below), and I agree with my neighbour's comment that they resemble "burial mounds"!

We are hoping that next summer's displays will include some colourful flowers that brighten up our neighbourhood.

SHELLEY FREEMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GRAFFITI?

Let us all do our best to keep our city graffiti free. The "graffiti police" already do a wonderful job of preventing and erasing vandals' graffiti but seem powerless, even with the concern of council, to stop long lasting "corporate graffiti" [i.e. painted lines used by utilities to mark underground and planned infrastructure – DP] defacing our sidewalks with vibrant tags in colours clashing with the natural beauty of adjacent garden flowers and lawns.

The corporate hand that holds the spray can cares not for civic pride.

The trace of that insouciance clashes with the heritage of care put into choosing the texture and colours of building materials and pavers. Clashing colours destroy good taste in the selection of colours to paint verandas, porticos, doors, wooden steps and window frames.

Tree planters for Westmount Public Works, however, use a green mark on the sidewalk that washes away in a few days.

Although we may be able to do little collectively, perhaps we may each be able to do our part individually. Go see Wilder at Hoggs Hardware to acquire a small can of non-toxic paint remover. Daub a little on the offending sidewalk graffiti. Absent yourself awhile. Wait for the rain and snow to wash the graffiti away. Then, next time I plead with Wilder as he walks by my garden to sing an opera aria with his powerful voice, he'll be able to do so from a clean sidewalk.

'Tor Haines, de Maisonneuve

Overheard

▶ One man to another man at the entrance to 310 Victoria Ave. October 27 at around 5 pm:

"He is not the smartest bulb in the box."

* * *

► Woman into her cell phone, Sherbrooke St. between Claremont and Prince Albert, at around 8:30 am October 28:

"I want my money up front. She can [inaudible] money market or use a line of credit, but I want my freaking money!"

* * *

► Woman to young child, Prince Albert & de Maisonneuve, Ocotober 19 at 8:20 am:

"Arrête de pleurer because you don't listen."



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WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

LETTERS & COMMENTS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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We even use 'em upside down



COMIN' UP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Centre Greene's Treats & Treasures. Online. www.facebook.com/centregreene. Continues until Sunday, November 22 at



The entire island of Montreal is known for its public street and sidewalk construction, and its potholes, and a noticeable symbol that they are nearby: the orange cone. This piece of private land on St. Catherine east of Wood Ave. also uses the orange cone, innovatively in both up (October 30) and down (September 14) positions. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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TO BE LISTED IN Comin' Up

Please send your Westmount event, to: editor@westmountindependent.com Be sure to write by Friday at 10 am for inclusion the next week.





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BUILDING PERMITS # What's permitted

City council approves 13 building permits at Oct. 19 session

The following 13 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the October 19 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

Approved

3186 The Boulevard: to make landscaping changes in the front yard so the land in front of The Boulevard is the same level as the sidewalk, on condition that the decorative stones seen on the plan are taken away and that the guard rail is conserved;

- **25 Rosemount:** at a Category I house, to replace the windows on condition they be wood except for the basement ones which may be aluminium clad;
- 625 Côte St. Antoine: to add a garage in the rear yard and an addition on the rear façade provided the proposed sloped roof of the ground floor addition be flat to accommodate the second storey bay window and that the height of the garage parapet be raised to match the height of said roof;

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- 10 Braeside Place: at a Category I house, to replace the windows and doors provided the aesthetics of the proposed doors and windows be the same as the original:
- **661 Belmont:** to build an addition at the rear provided the small roof over the ground floor projection is copper or zinc:
- **16 Braeside Place:** to replace windows and a door provided the windows are the same as the originals;
- **481 Strathcona:** to install a window and replace a door;
- **559 Roslyn:** to create a new opening for a window on the rear façade;
- 71 Arlington: to replace basement windows and the front door and create a new opening for a patio door on the rear façade provided the lintel above the patio door has soldier course bricks, that the patio door has wider stiles and rails and that the front door has two wood panels under the glass, as per the existing door;
- **38 Anwoth:** to replace windows;
- **477 Lansdowne:** to replace windows provided the proposed double-hung windows have no divisions on the upper sash:
- **624 Murray Hill:** to build a basement-level extension at the rear:
- **420 Clarke:** to re-build the front entrance stairs and do landscaping work in the front yard.



Arthur Younanian

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Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

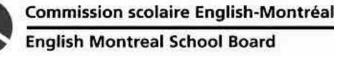
PUBLIC NOTICE SCHOOL ELECTIONS – NOVEMBER 1, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by Denise Contant, Returning Officer, to the electors of the English Montreal School Board that the following persons were proclaimed elected to the positions mentioned below:

CHAIR	Joe Ortona
WARD 1	Ellie Israel (Team Ortona)
WARD 2	Joseph Lalla
WARD 3	*
WARD 4	Jamie Fabian (Team Ortona)
WARD 5	James Kromida (Team Ortona)
WARD 6	Agostino Cannavino (Team Ortona)
WARD 7	Sophie De Vito (Team Ortona)
WARD 8	Mario Pietrangelo (Team Ortona)
WARD 9	Mario Bentrovato (Team Ortona)
WARD 10	Pietro Mercuri (Team Ortona)

*Since more than one candidate has filed a nomination paper for Ward 3, the previously elected candidate, Julien Feldman, remains in office, pursuant to Decree 1039-2020 adopted on October 7, 2020, until the election resumes.

Given in Montreal, November 6, 2020 Denise Contant, EMSB Returning Officer



AVIS PUBLIC ÉLECTIONS SCOLAIRES –1ER NOVEMBRE 2020

AVIS PUBLIC est, par la présente, donné par Denise Contant, présidente d'élection, aux électeurs de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal que les personnes suivantes ont été proclamées élues aux postes ci-après mentionnés :

CIRCONSCRIPTION 1	Ellie Israel (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 2	Joseph Lalla
CIRCONSCRIPTION 3	*
CIRCONSCRIPTION 4	Jamie Fabian (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 5	James Kromida (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 6	Agostino Cannavino (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 7	Sophie De Vito (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 8	Mario Pietrangelo (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 9	Mario Bentrovato (équipe Ortona)
CIRCONSCRIPTION 10	Pietro Mercuri (équipe Ortona)

Joe Ortona

*Comme plus d'un candidat a déposé sa candidature pour la circonscription n° 3, le candidat élu précédemment, Julien Feldman, continue son mandat, selon le Décret 1039-2020 adopté le 7 octobre 2020, et ce, jusqu'à la reprise du Scrutin.

Donné à Montréal le 6 novembre 2020

PRÉSIDENT

Denise Contant, présidente d'élection CSEM



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Adorable, yes, here are Neville and Ron, three-month-old kitten brothers. Neville is the black-and-white domestic shorthair/tuxedo cutie with goldtone eyes on the left, while Ron is the marmalade tabby with aqua eyes on the right.

They are both ready to be adopted together as brothers and then share all their

Kitten brothers Neville and Ron at three months

playfulness and affection with their adoptive family.

They are presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, very healthy for their kitten stage, having had first inoculations and other age-appropriate health care planned moving forward, neutered and microchipped.

Neville's identification number is A45293014 and Ron's identification number is A45293011. You can refer to them when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com and fill out the



adoption application for them on the attached link.

Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

◄ Adorable 2021 SPCA calendar is out

Just a reminder that the stunning twelve-month SPCA calendar for 2021 is

now available from the Montreal SPCA website.

Here is the link for you to enjoy yours throughout the next year www.spca.com/en/2021-calendar/. As the calendars are a fundraiser for the shelter, best to order more for family and friends since we are heading into plans for holiday gifting.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



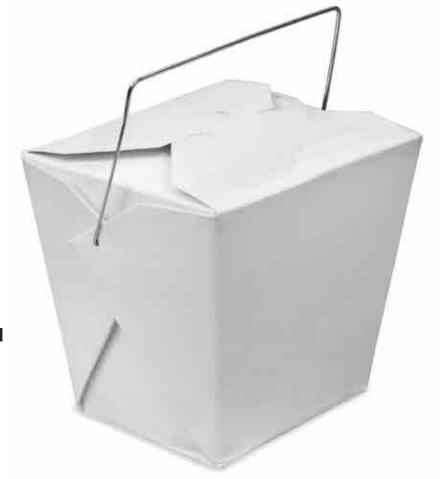
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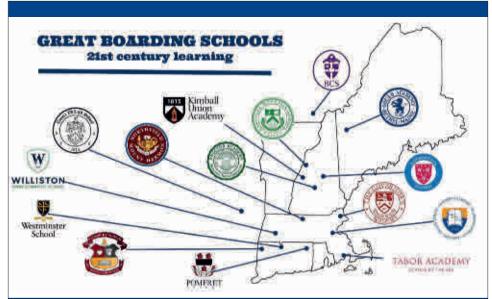
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Please visit the Great Boarding Schools registration page to sign up: greatboardingschools.org/virtualevents

The Great Boarding School Consortium is excited to meet families from throughout the U.S. and Canada, exploring topics of residential life, co-curricular programming, and the many benefits of the boarding school experience.

Following the presentation, breakout rooms will be provided to meet directly with representatives from each school. Links will be posted at the time of the event.

Learn more about what makes each school unique by visiting greatboardingschools.org.







Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

This photograph of Toby says it all, enjoying a comfy little snooze between kitchen watch and fall-weather walkies.

A delightful two-year-old black minipoodle weighing in at 10 lbs, Toby is neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and fully housetrained. He is coming from a home with seniors, so best to integrate him into a family environment with children over the age of 12.

He is affectionate and quite intelligent, yet naturally having to grow more self-confident in his new home. He does well with another dog so it would be a good placement option as it would be easier for him to integrate into the household routine.

Toby has come along beautifully in the nurturing foster home provided for him through

Toby to love

Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. His foster family reports that he is playful, goofy, enthusiastic and keen on leash walks and outdoor toy play in the backyard.

What more could any family desire than sharing their time with this little poodle of their dreams?

If you would like more information on adopting Toby, please contact the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org or refer to this grassroots animal rescue organization's website at www.gerdysrescue.org.



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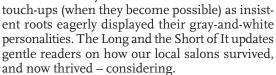


From left, Irena Ignatova and Sophie Chmlowski.

The Long and the Short of It: Salon Sophie

An update on Westmount salons

The spring lock-down meant that locks languished: Hairdressing salons were closed. Men and women slowly had longer hair. And many needed



Obviously, all work to respect social distancing and the obligatory wearing of masks. We will research to see how salons have adapted, if some have added a COVID tax to help amortize new expenses such as plastic screens et cetera, due to the pandemic's persistence, and, indeed, how they are flourishing today. Stay tuned for other hair-raising

Iconic signs attract our attention daily, from the famed Nike "swoosh" to the internationally renowned golden arches.

In Westmount, there is an also archetypal one: a barber's pole, with its classic red, white and blue stripes creating a recognizable standout.

Sophie and Andrew Chmlowski and Irena Ignatova offer "hair styling for men." "Actually, young and older children as well," smiles Sophie, noting that many private-school lads come in for



their traditional cut. "Classic is really the look of the majority of our customers."

The team has managed the shop at the Sherbrooke St. location for over 25 years, "but I think there was a barber shop here for

many, many years before that* as well." The nofrills salon has handsome tiled floors and four chairs "aligned according to COVID regulations."

Products from Paul Mitchell are popular with their clientele. Although their spring lock-down lasted three months, Sophie points out that "our landlord, Cromwell, was very supportive, and we are also very grateful to our customers for their loyalty."

And although when Salon Sophie re-opened most clients came in with longer hair ("much longer!"), today's requests are for short clips. This timeless symbol, a trade sign dating from the Middle Ages, still attracts countless cognoscenti.

SALON SOPHIE 4970 Sherbrooke St. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. 514.484.5987

*Editor's note: There was, going back to at least the 1970s. One barber was Sam, the other – I'm pretty sure – was Angelo and there was also a watch repairman with a desk in the front window. – DP

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Councillor Cynthia Lulham, middle row left, hears council's appreciation.



Councillor Cynthia Lulham holds up a finger to signify one more year left (see story!).

Cited for assistance, generosity of time, memory

Tributes to Cllr. Lulham recognize 25 years on council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council devoted much of its opening reports November 2 to paying special tribute to Councillor Cynthia Lulham on the 25-year anniversary of her work as a councillor after election to seven terms representing District 7. She is the longest-ever serving member.

"It is a significant milestone," Mayor Christina Smith stated, saying 25 years of public service "is not a small endeavour."

She cited Lulham as being "incredibly forward thinking and hard-working" in building projects for people, such as her vision for developing the dead-end closure of Prince Albert into a community square, "only one of many examples."

She also noted how Lulham was the first to give birth while on council - to Harry, who was born during her first year in office.

Lulham's innovations and achievements were described by councillors in terms of personal recollections of how she has helped them in their numerous portfolios: "generosity of time sharing her memories of Westmount" (Marina Brzeski), "patience and wisdom" (Mary Gallery) and "countless

hours" of learning help for Philip Cutler.

One more year

Cutler hoped to work with her for many more years, he added, causing Lulham to hold up one finger, signifying her intention to serve only the one remaining year of this council's man-

"I learn from her every single time we get together," said Councillor Conrad Peart, as urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture. This is an area in which Lulham has been involved through many years of commissionerships that included sports and recreation, parks, the restoration of Victoria Hall and, more recently, zoning and economic development.

To mark this service milestone, council would present her with "a gift" after the meeting, Mayor Smith announced. This was a framed certificate of appreciation recognizing her "dedication and role in shaping the community." A photo of the certificate was requested the next day by the In-

"Thank you all for your kind words,"

The Mayor, Councillar Certificate of Approximation Councillor Cynthia Lulham

Certificate of appreciation from the city including the names of all those on the seven councils with whom she served.

Lulham said in recalling how her neighbours had initially "put me up to this," and saying her aim had always been to "build community."

Many communities in one

"To me, the beauty of Westmount is all the little communities within the one community," she later explained. "It's about building spaces where people can come together inside and outside, such as the

agora at the WRC and now the plan for upgrading Westmount Park."

To this end, she had worked to create the Community Events department and The Gallery at Victoria Hall to foster the artistic and cultural areas, to return Victoria Hall to its original community centre purpose and to spearhead entry into the horticultural competitions, one of which led the city to be designated Ville verte du Québec in its population size.

Lulham has worked through the city's three crises: managing the Victoria Hall shelter in the ice storm of 1998, fighting for survival of the city's traditions as one

of the three borough council members during the four merger years with Montreal (2002-2005) and recently, the current pandemic, when she has been spearheading the allowance of additional terrasse space and revitalization of the commercial districts.

She has also served on almost all the city committees including traffic, culture, the Healthy City Project, horticulture and Summit Woods, for which she obtained \$1.2 million in funding from the Quebec ministry of culture for integration of the northern part of Summit Circle into the urban woodland.



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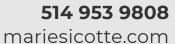




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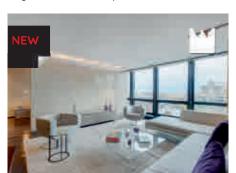
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