

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 14 No. 12a

We are Westmount

December 1, 2020

Westmount to pay \$60M for island-wide services

## City's aggro increase for 2021 drops to 2% from 2.6%

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's portion of the Montreal agglomeration's shared costs of island-wide services for 2021 will reach almost \$60 million, according to the aggro budget dated November 2.

This represents a jump of 2 percent over the 2020 amount – some \$1.2 million more.

This increase compares with a 2020 hike of 2.6 percent in Westmount's *quote-part* to help cover such costs as police, fire, transit, water supply and purification as well as a portion of costs related to specific projects and the centre city, according to

figures from Montreal.

Until Westmount's own budget is tabled to include the costs of local services (such as public works, sports and recreation, and capital works), it is not known how much of a bite its new aggro share for 2021 of \$59,846,800 will gobble up. For 2020, it was reported to be close to 60 percent.

### Worse to come?

"We are not seeing the full impact of the aggro this year," Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* in relaying the information for the island's 15 suburban municipalities.

The worst may come in *continued on p. 21*

## Santa dog



A riff on the world-famous "balloon dogs" of artist Jeff Koons, as seen on St. Catherine St. near the Westmount recreation centre November 24. Viewing this tribute is easier on the wallet than buying a real one. A Koons dog sold for US\$58.4 million in 2013.

PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE.



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## Residents reminded to sign up for Code Red alerts

Residents were urged last week to sign up for the Code Red alert system if they have not already done so. This is to receive messages from the city concerning city-wide emergencies as well as those pertaining to their particular sector when an emergency may be expected to endure more than three hours.

City communications head Sebastian Samuel told the *Independent* that the electrical outage November 17 following a gas

leak on Grosvenor at de Maisonneuve (see November 24, p. 8) was an example of how the system works in relaying important advisories.

Other examples include evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil-water notices and missing child reports.

"New residents, in particular, may not have signed up," he noted. This can be done by clicking on the Code Red button provided on the city's website.



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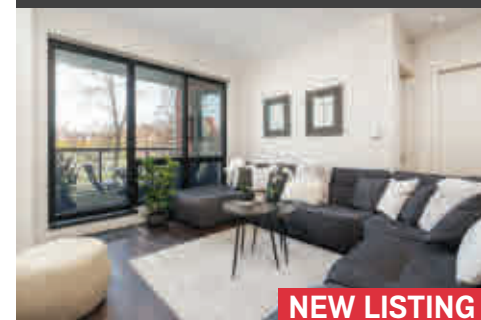
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Apt 1705 | \$969,000



## Holiday Gift Guide

mySHOESHOP.ca, p. GG-1

Lambert roofing and fireplace specialists • Courval • Ritsi, p. GG-2

Campbell Picture Framing • Jeannettes Needlecraft, p. GG-3

S. P. Diamant Jewels • la cookery, p. GG-4

Boutique Emma • Maison Goldberg, p. GG-5

Maison Christian Faure • L'Autre Choix • Le Fournil, p. GG-6

L'Art Glacier • Forno West, p. GG-7

Collange Lingerie, p. GG-8

Victoria Ave. on November 26. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

### To recover unpaid taxes in 2019

## Council chamber to be open for sale of properties

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Six properties remained listed by the city November 23 for sale by public auction to recover unpaid municipal taxes for 2019, according to city officials. This is to take place December 16 at 10 am in the council chamber.

Any property for which taxes, interest and costs have been paid in full by the scheduled time of the sale will be excluded from the list. One had already been removed from an original list of seven approved at the council meeting November 2.

While this year, on account of COVID restrictions, the city hall is not regularly open to the public, an exemption is being made by the Quebec government for this occasion as it has been for the opening of tenders as long as social distancing is observed, explained city clerk Andrew Brownstein.

The public auction takes place every year in accordance with the Cities and Towns Act (CQLR, Chapter C-19).

Even after a property is “sold,” however, it can be bought back with all accrued amounts owing within a year. Those properties as listed at the beginning of last week were:

- Forden Ave. ARR 65 (sic);
- Côte des Neiges Rd., lots;
- 3 Sunnyside Ave.;
- 4630-4634 St. Catherine;
- 372 Elm Ave.;
- 1 Wood, lots.

Editorial, p. 10

Dodge on June real estate transfers, p. 21

9 Lives, p. 24

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 24



infoWestmount, p. 27

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*I wish all my family, friends, clients + colleagues a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. This year will be extra hard for some. Please consider paying it forward with extra donations.*

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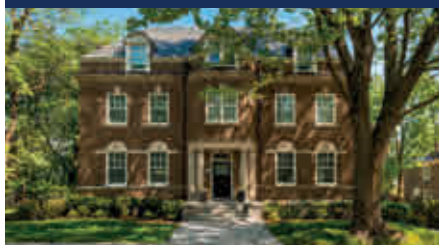
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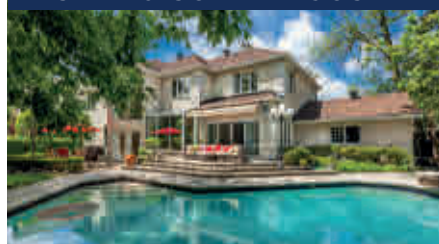
Rue des Roseaux, Blainville

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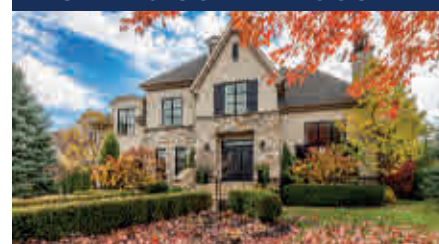
Av. Prince-Philip, Outremont

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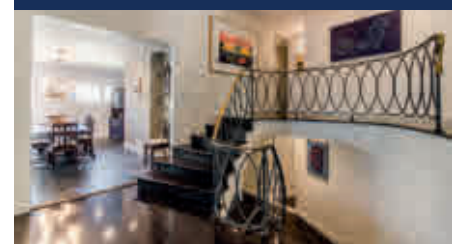
Av. Carlyle, Mont Royal

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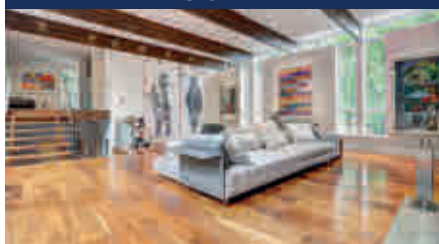
Rue des Châtaigniers, Boucherville

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Av. Argyle, Westmount

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Stukely, Bolton-Ouest

**SOLD**



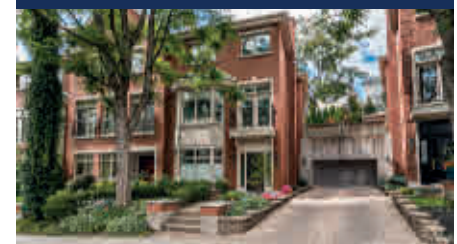
Av. Church Hill, Westmount

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Av. Windsor, Westmount

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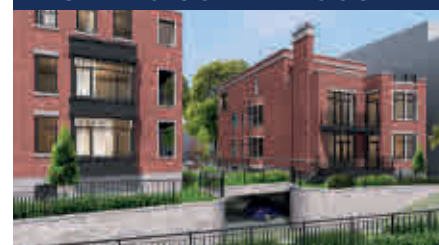
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# City writes off more than \$78K in unpaid Hydro bills

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 16 wrote off more than \$78,000 in unpaid Hydro Westmount bills and late charges accrued by the end of October 2017. These included commercial and residential clients listed by a collection agency, some described as finalized or having moved out.

This compares with \$61,419 that were written off for 2016 at the same time last

year as having been uncollectable after the three-year prescription period.

While the majority of those written off recently applied to residential clients – many listed at apartment building addresses – the highest amount of \$4,774 was attributed to a numbered company on Greene Ave. Another high amount of \$4,242 was reported at an apartment building on de Maisonneuve just east of Clarke.

At the other end of the scale, \$2.17 appeared to be owed by a resident of Sunny-side. In some cases, clients appeared to have paid in full but owed only late charges.

“There are several factors for the high amount in 2017 and we expect that 2018 and possibly 2019 will be about the same amount,” said city director general Benoit Hurtubise. “Our collection agency then was not very successful recovering owed amounts from residents who left the city without paying the amount due.”

Since then, the collection agency has been changed, Hydro Westmount’s customer service group was restructured (see story February 11, p. 5) and results are expected to be “much better” in the future.

# PAC ‘looks for continuity’: Cllr. Peart Colour requirement for new windows questioned by Levine

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of de Casson asked city council November 16 why the city was requiring that the new windows of his house not be black as requested in his permit application, but must be “uniform as others.”

“This [alleged uniformity elsewhere in the neighbourhood] is simply not the case,” Paul Levine stated in the question he submitted to the virtual meeting.

“There are many different colours on other attached homes” on his street as well as on Holton such as beige, brown, white and black. He said he had presented photos of examples.

Councillor Conrad Peart, Urban Planning commissioner for permits and architecture, said he needed more details and would look into the matter. In general, he explained, the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), which reviews such window requests, “looks for continuity in landscaping.”

The house happened to be on the list of building permits being recommended by the PAC for approval at that meeting as one

to replace windows.

It carried a condition stating “provided they have a lighter tone in order to match the existing windows on the adjacent building, which is part of the architectural ensemble.”

This and other permits on the list were later moved for approval by Peart and accepted unanimously.

## EMSB elections postponed again by province

The English Montreal School Board’s election for its Ward 3 commissioner, whose district includes Westmount, has been postponed by the province for the second time. The advance and principal polls were to be held on various dates in December. No new date has been announced. Incumbent Julien Feldman is facing off against challenger Irwin Rapoport in the board’s only contested race.

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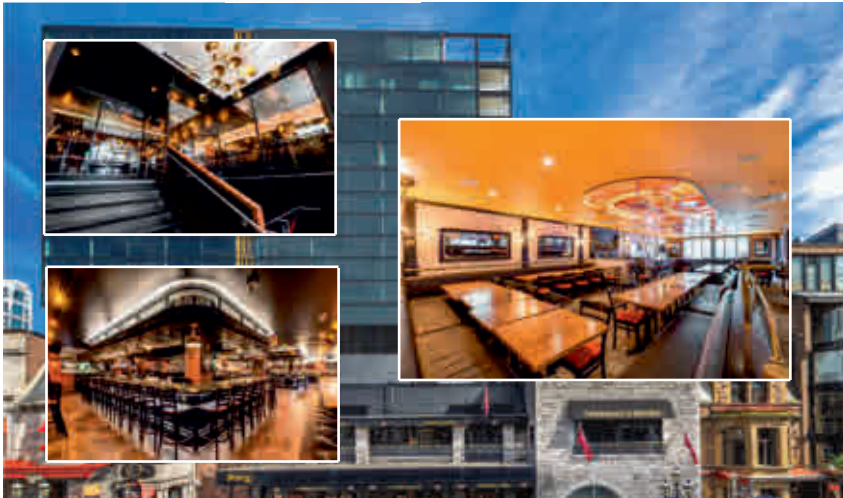
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## Safety codes require new structures

# Reduction in swings ‘incomprehensible,’ Merkley tells council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Why are there so few swings left in the parks? This is a question city council was asked at its virtual meeting November 16 by Elsebeth Merkley of Melville Ave. She said it was “incomprehensible” that children had to line up now as a result of the reduced number available.

Those “designated for babies and handicapped persons should be re-purposed for all.”

Mayor Christina Smith said she “knows the kids love” swings and had seen the line-ups herself in Westmount Park.

When the equipment there was updated and replaced, there were fewer swings put in to adhere to safety codes. “I think we can agree our parks have never been busier than this summer,” she added.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, further explained that changes in safety standards over the years mean that now more distancing is required between swings and the existing structures that hold up the swings.

They also require more distance from other equipment.

As a result, she said, the city is replacing the older supporting structures as it invests in parks and re-does playgrounds such as recently in Stayner Park.

Devon and Somerville also will have more swings this coming summer. More are expected for Westmount Park when the playground is re-done as part of its revitalization project.

A lengthy list of playground safety standards from the Canadian Standards Association covers a range of recommended surface materials, equipment spacing, accessible and inclusive equipment for those with special needs and the separation of equipment by age groups.

This was borne out when the playground was separated into two locations in King George (Murray) Park (see story June 6, in 2017, p. 1).

Westmount resident Sofia Goddard had the same issue as Merkley (see May 21, 2019, p. 3).



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## EMPLOIS D'ÉTÉ 2021

Soyez avisés que le formulaire pour les emplois d'été 2021 sera disponible sur le site Web de la Ville de Westmount à compter du mardi 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 2020 à [westmount.org/emploisdete](http://westmount.org/emploisdete).

**Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le dimanche 31 janvier 2021.**

*Les postes sont octroyés selon les qualifications et l'expérience de travail et seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue. Veuillez noter que des changements peuvent survenir en raison de la COVID-19.*

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2021

Please be advised that the 2021 Summer Employment form will be available on the City of Westmount website as of Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at [westmount.org/summer jobs](http://westmount.org/summer jobs).

**Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Sunday, January 31, 2021.**

*The positions will be awarded to candidates with the appropriate qualifications and experience and only those selected will be interviewed. Please note that changes may occur due to COVID-19.*

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## EDITORIAL

### MAKE-WESTMOUNT PARK-EASILY-TRAVERSABLE-ON-FOOT REDUX

I was dismayed by the map of proposed paths for Westmount Park produced by Stantec for the city and reproduced again at right.

Not only is there no straight path from Lansdowne to Melville on it, the squiggly, eastern/Melville walkways are relegated to “secondary-path” status.

(Remember: de Maisonneuve – with a proper sidewalk – used to run right through the park, and the sidewalk remained for many years after the roadway was closed to traffic.)

As I wrote initially (November 19, 2019, p. 6, reproduced below), I have a few more years of being able to scramble over snow banks, including ones left on “secondary” paths.

But what about seniors? And what about encouraging walking *in general* as much as possible?

We are just starting to see what winter will do to seniors who can't leave for the south or use local indoor resources as they were able to do last year.

Surely for the future (pandemic or no), we can build them a nice straight, dry, level path through Westmount Park *that is easily maintainable to the standard of a sidewalk?*

(I also reproduce the letters of opponents to my view (from December 3, 2019,

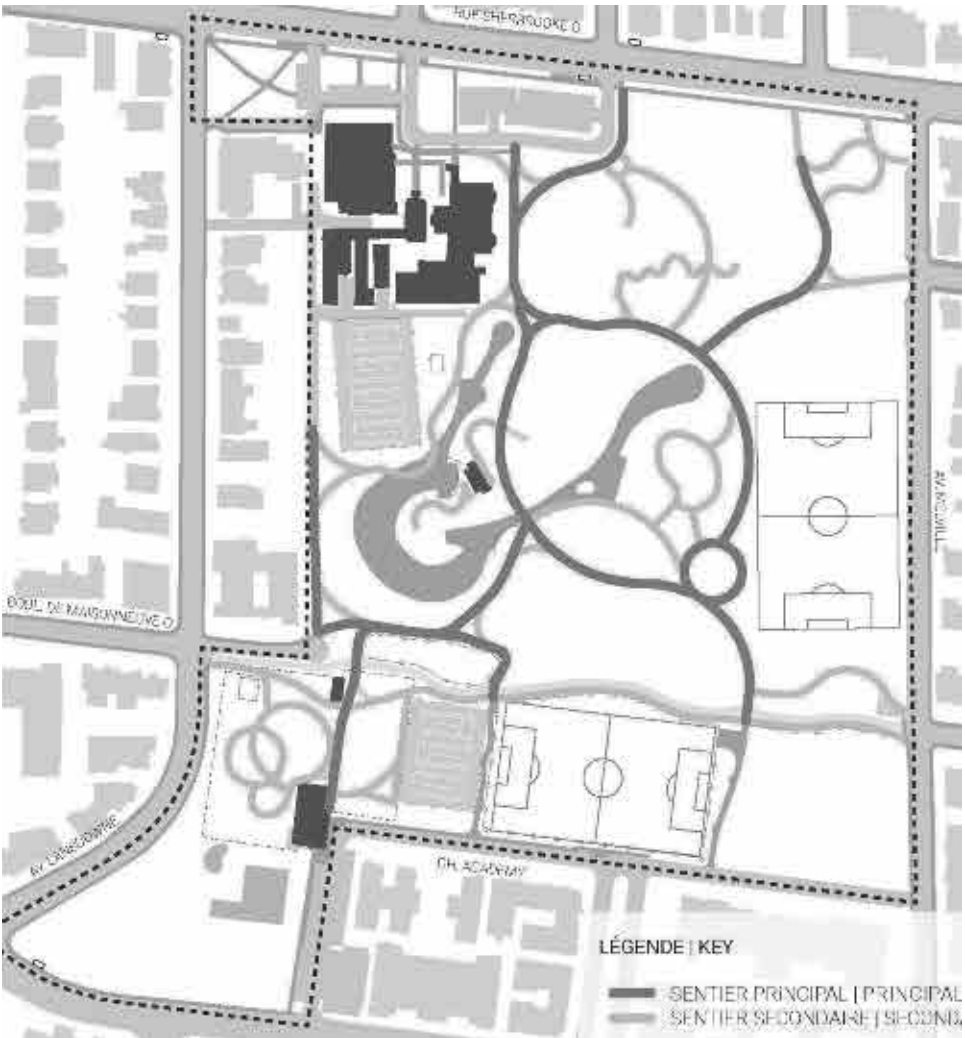
p. 8) and direct you to the piece in this issue (p. 12) of *Independent* columnist Heather Black, who also disagrees with me.

#### From November 2019:

I applaud city council for opening the Pandora's box of consultation on Westmount Park. Yes, consultations are usually a good idea in principle, but they can also lead to all sorts of unfulfillable expectations and disputes before anything is even proposed formally by the city. In the case of Westmount Park, which is very heavily used, and loved, but which has not been changed much for many years, or decades, the risk seems worth it. A good five-year plan would be better than a design-online, or make-it-up-as-you-go-along, approach.

We can learn from the Turcot-Glen hospital-new Champlain bridge fiasco. Note to planners: don't increase traffic to an area, and then tear up the two largest nearby pieces of transportation infrastructure at the exact same time. Have a plan that makes sequential, budgetary, quality and popular sense.

In Westmount Park's case, what should that plan be? After the recent survey and consultation, city council members and full-time city staff now know many people's



answer to that question and can repair to their bunkers to start coming up with some proposals.

Before they do, let me add my two cents.

Over the life of the *Independent* (2007 to now), much noise has been made by council members and citizen advocates, past and present, about encouraging cycling and walking. The cyclists have obtained many new paths over this period, but the pedestrians have been pretty much left with the infrastructure of 2007, or 1997, or 1987...

One pedestrian route that I think needs attention is the east-west one through Westmount Park at de Maisonneuve. When the blacktop of de Maisonneuve was transformed into parkland in the 1980s, the planners of that time opted not to keep the sidewalks, but to create a meandering park path by what is now the dog run, the “Shakespeare in the Park” dell and the gazebo.

It's a nice path, but it is not practical. I often use it to go from Victoria village to Greene. It is not straight or level, so for the walking commuter it feels slow. I am not the only one walking this path and finding it so. I see many pedestrians, often those with mobility issues, choosing to walk, or roll devices, on the straighter bike path, much to the chagrin of cyclists. (Going up to Sherbrooke

Diagram of proposed pathways shows primary ones in darker ink and secondary ones in a lighter shade. For original colour version, please see p. 22 of last week's issue.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

is not efficient, and St. Catherine is not either, plus it has the “Glen dip.”)

And that's in summer. In winter, the path is not maintained to the quality level demanded for sidewalks in Westmount and parts (or even all) of it can be treacherous, especially the frequently wet or slushy spot one finds at the low point next to the “Shakespeare in the Park” dell.

Unlike many government initiatives (by other, less wise governments, of course, not the city of Westmount), walking is not pie-in-the-sky wishful thinking based on what planners want residents to be or to do. Westmounters and non-Westmounters in Westmount do walk. I am one. I see many others. This important commuting route – between our two retail districts, between the two nearest Metro stations, near many of our apartment and office buildings – should be as straight and level as possible, and maintained in winter as benefits the important sidewalk that it is.

I am not an engineer, but I see a straighter route even if other park landmarks remain where they are, and an even straighter one if the dog run is moved

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them 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. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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north towards Sherbrooke a bit and the gazebo moved out of the way. And I think the memorial trees can be avoided.

Creative people can come up with ways to keep bikes off this new pedestrian highway. (I have a few ideas, but I doubt that they would meet today's standards of safety).

If things are kept as they are, I've got a few years left of being able to scramble over snowbanks, but I think we can do better for our less agile, and more encumbered, neighbours.

Best of luck with your plans, council members.

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

### Letters from December 2019:

#### LET THE PATH MEANDER

I have to disagree with your editorial of November 19, 2019 (p. 6) about making Westmount Park traversable by pedestrians.

I am a walker and frequently walk through the park on my way to Greene (or farther) and back. It is the fact that the path meanders slightly that makes it pleasing. If I want straight lines, I can walk on any street. A park is not a throughway. The path opens to delights each season – the snow-covered gazebo, dogs cavorting in the dog run, people just enjoying a sunny day in the “Shakespeare in the Park” dell, the blossoms in spring and the ever-changing colours of the leaves in the autumn. A slight detour around the dog run and the gazebo only add to the walk's charm. I don't need to slow my pace, yet it is a relief

from the rest of the walk through city streets, where cars and bicycles make walking more challenging.

Sometimes we need a break from efficiency!

Where I do agree with you is that the path needs to be safe. The section that collects water – and, in winter, ice – needs to be levelled. Snow clearance needs to be done, though I was surprised this year to see how quickly and well the path had been cleared after our first snowfall. We don't need another highway through the park. There are enough straight paths elsewhere!

SUSAN BLOOM, LANSDOWNE AVE.

*Editor's reply:* I am all for meandering paths too, but I think we can make one exception for such an important case, and I am skeptical that a meandering path will be well cleared of snow in the long term, even if the quality improves for a season or two. Good design makes things easy for users, and for maintenance and maintenance staff, and increases usage, which – in the case of walking – is a goal of many people in Westmount. Everyone pays for poor design, over and over again until the project in question is demolished. – DP.

#### STRAIGHTEN THE PATH, MOVE THE DOGS COMPLETELY

I am fully in agreement with the need to straighten the east-west footpath through Westmount Park at de Maisonneuve (as expressed in your editorial of November 19, 2019, p. 6). But moving the dog run “north towards Sherbrooke a bit”?



Looking west in Westmount Park towards Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve on November 27, 2019, with the dog run's fence to the left/south. The lagoon is to the right/north. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

So, in addition to dogs *en route* to the run occasionally harassing (or at minimum sniffing at) third parties, and the peace of the lagoon being disturbed by yapping in the run, are you suggesting we might have the dogs splashing about in the water?! (There is simply no land leeway available.) Much better to move the dog run back to its original location, at the corner of St. Catherine and Lansdowne, which is presently a rarely used part of the park. and would minimize disturbance since it is across

many paths from it.

CHRIS LYLE, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

*Editor's reply:* To your first point: if the first meandering path that one encounters as one goes north from the dog run (area “A” in the above photo) were moved to the south side of the dog run (i.e. right next to the bike path), and the dog run were moved north to cover only where that path is now, the dog run would still be well south of the lagoon.

In addition, the second meandering path that one encounters as one goes north (area “B”) would not have been moved at all and would still be between the lagoon and the dog run.

As to your second point, it is my guess that the rough location of the dog run is a *res judicata*, but what did I say about council opening up Pandora's box? Lobby hard enough and you might get your wish. This is interest-group politics. Almost anything can happen! – DP



I had these pages preliminarily laid out on November 23, 2020 and went for my first post-layout walk in Westmount Park on November 25, a basically random timing. I found that the perennial wet-and-snowy low spot in the Shakespeare in the Park dell was ... wet and snowy (main picture). Would you like to be 80 and navigating that area? In a single *aller-retour* trip, I also saw a walker and a jogger on the bike path (insets), plus another jogger that I was too slow to capture on camera. Why were they on the bike path? Because it is straighter than the walking path and better maintained.

PHOTOS: DAVID PRICE.

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# Design concepts for Westmount Park: Is nature enhanced?



ECOWatch

HEATHER BLACK

Stantec’s November 18 presentation featured a drawing of the pond with swans, lily pads and cattails. This natural approach both improves ecological sustainability and reflects the park’s original Beaux Arts landscape. As a large part of Westmount is a National Historic Site of Canada, the question is: Do other recommendations contribute to our place identity?

### Place identity

Our original park combined two British natural landscape traditions: Lancelot “Capability” Brown’s pastoral – i.e. open fields and woodlots – and Humphry Repton’s more dramatic picturesque style.

Landscaped in 1912 by M. J. Howard Manning, formal gardens surround the library but transition to natural ravines. City literature also refers to “the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted” (1822-1903), the American landscape architect and conservationist, and his role has been approvingly

researched by contributors to the *Independent* (see October 17, 2007, p. 4 and April 29, 2008, p. 6 and February 16, 2010, p. 19).

Presented by Brenda Webster Tweel of Stantec, the key design concept is a natural – and beautiful – pond with native plants and rainwater recycled through an underground storage system. Another recommendation for a more open playground – and small pond – reflects research on the importance of unstructured play. For historical continuity, a fountain-splash pad at

the Sherbrooke St. entrance recalls an earlier pond for toy sailboats.

In contrast, the elevated walkways over the pond and playground resemble early twig bridges, but appear contrived and unnecessary. It would be more ecological to close the beaten trail between the clay tennis courts and the northern leg of the pond, and replace it with grass and seating areas. The bridges would also encourage graffiti, while the lagoon bridge – not on Stantec’s illustration (see last week, p. 1) –



Layers of vegetation at the northeast pond recall Olmsted’s enhanced nature style, as seen October 24.



A dragonfly at the water’s edge of the lagoon on July 31.

would lead to pond contamination from dropped food as well as abuse of the ducks below.

Another design concept – a sidewalk parallel to the bike path – raises concerns about reduced greenspace as well as pedestrian safety. Stantec’s solution to bicycles in the park – a covered bike rack at the Lansdowne entrance only meters away from an existing but unused rack – will not stop cyclists. More realistic options – and an independent “friends of the park” committee to advise council – are required.

### Right to nature

Recommendations must also address park overcrowding – an issue that will only increase when downtown’s massive Square Children’s residential development at Atwater and Dorchester opens. However, rather than create activity zones throughout the park, Stantec’s plan locates major events – and noise – next to the vulnerable bird nesting area near the eastern pond. Better solutions: relocate our gazebo west to the circular garden before the exercise area and, to reduce noise at the pond, move the dog park northeast of the playground.

But the greater issue is: What is the best use of parks? For Olmsted, urban parks allowed citizens to escape urban noise and rejuvenate in nature – a point confirmed by science. Research (Stenfors, 2019) links time in nature – and the soft fascination of watching birds or butterflies – to restored attention as well as improved working memory and mood. To benefit from this effect, however, designers – and citizens – must prioritize biodiversity and quiet time in nature.

### On reflection

During our pandemic summer many – myself included – commented: “The nature in Westmount Park saved me.” While Stantec’s natural pond design is a step in the right direction, other elements do not contribute to either a nature aesthetic or citizen well-being. To watch the presentation – and fill out the survey – visit Engage-Westmount.org.

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Robert Aiken award goes to Plante, Pompili

# Two ‘essential volunteers’ honoured by Sports and Recreation

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s Sports and Recreation department refused to let pandemic restrictions prevent it from continuing one of its long-time traditions: presenting the Robert Aiken Volunteer of the Year Award.

While this usually takes place in June as part of a gala evening at Victoria Hall to recognize the contribution of coaches and others volunteers in city programs, this year because of COVID the event itself could not be held.

So, to honour this year’s two recipients, special presentations were arranged for this year’s double winners: Dominic Plante and Harris Pompili

“Both have been essential volunteers to the Sports & Recreation department over the past year and we wanted to show them some recognition,” said operations manager Andrew Maislin.

“We decided to make a house call to Dominic and surprise him with the award,” he said.

Was it a surprise? Yes, “especially when the entire Sports and Recreation team arrived at his door!”

The next day, November 20, they presented Pompili with his award at the Westmount recreation centre.

**Their contributions**

Describing the contributions of each, Maislin said that Plante is the hockey coach for three of his sons who play at Atom, Novice and MAHG (pre-novice) levels. “His fourth son is set to join our program next season and he plans on coaching him as well.” The boys all play on different teams, which puts their father at the arena six to eight times a week.

Pompili “has become one of our most trusted and reliable volunteers,” Maislin explained. “Harris is always willing to lend a hand at special events, activities and even



Dominic Plante, centre with son Elliot, was surprised at home November 19 for presentation of his volunteer award by the entire Sports and Recreation team. To the left of Plante, from left, are Jennifer Heaps, Bruce Stacey, Matthew Lawton (foreground) and department director Dave Lapointe. To the right are, Alyssa Sherrard, Claude Danis, Andrew Maislin and Jessie Zhou.

around the arena.

We have seen Harris grow up as a participant in our different programs to be a great leader and an active volunteer. He is always the first to arrive at Family Day and

Winter Carnival, and the last to leave with the staff. He is greatly appreciated.” Pompili is the son of city councillor Cynthia Lulham.

The annual June appreciation event replaced the longstanding appreciation golf

tournament in 2015. At the time, the change was reported to be made in line with changing demographics. Many of the coaches were now women who were not as likely to play golf.



At the presentation to Harris Pompili November 20 at the Westmount recreation centre were, from left, Matthew Lawton, Pompili, Andrew Maislin and Dave Lapointe.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.



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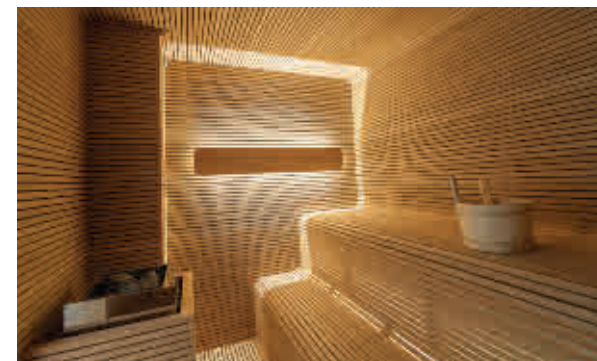
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# Be there for yourself the way you're there for others



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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*Pull-out section*

# Holiday Gift Guide 2020

***Christmas comes to city hall***



The tree on the front lawn of city hall on November 25. There was no formal tree lighting this year due to the pandemic.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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# ‘Back to Bach’ presents Tchaikovsky



SCREEN GRAB FROM THE *THE NUTCRACKER BBB STYLE*.

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* has entranced thousands, particularly during the holiday season. This year, thanks to an unendingly pernicious pandemic, the usual sold-out performances at Place des Arts are cancelled.

However, disappointed children – and parents – need not despair.

Back to Bach has a delightful solution. To replace their annual concerts that delighted so many youngsters, their eyes all

aglow, Westmount founder Dorothy Fieldman has just launched *The Nutcracker BBB Style*, an enchanting 30-minute film version.

Dancers, musicians and animation come alive with a bilingual narration. Buyers (see below) will “own their own copy, to play whenever they wish.”

A great gift not only for local aficionados but for enthusiasts around the world. The digital release will be sent in a link via email on December 15. To order (\$15). [Bachbeforebedtime.com](http://Bachbeforebedtime.com).



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# What Santa might see ...



... if he flies over Westmount. The city's outdoor refrigerated ice rink in Westmount Park as seen the evening of November 20. It had opened earlier that day.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Holiday schedule

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second-to-last one  
before our usual  
Christmas break

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## Winter's first snowman?



November 24 in Westmount Park.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## Prince Albert lights up



Prince Albert Square on November 26. As with the tree on the front lawn of city hall, there was no lighting ceremony this year due to the COVID pandemic.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

  
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A Zamboni was removed from the Westmount recreation centre November 12 through its roof, as the original design planned for.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL.



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## Holidays mean shopping



Jurate Uleckas, left, being served by stylist Sylvie Désbois, is a frequent shopper at Emma on Greene, as seen November 21.



Dutch grandmother Lissie de Snaijer and her smartly dressed grandchildren Eloise, left, and Josephine Henrich were hurrying home after a little holiday shopping on Greene Ave. November 21.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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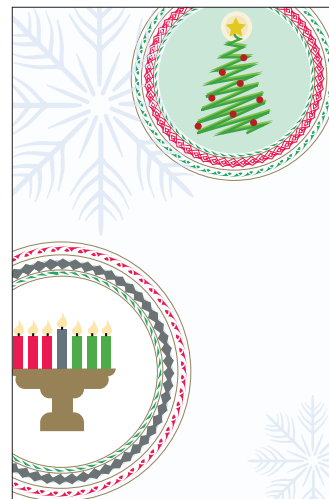
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## Give voice to your feelings

- Keep in mind that having a range of emotions is normal. Feelings play an important role in life, and it is essential to experience them without passing judgment.
- Use words to express what you are going through. Do you feel alone? Are you 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.



## Make judicious use of social media

- Use critical thinking before sharing something on social media. Ill-advised information can have harmful effects and be detrimental to everyone's efforts in these times.
- Use social media to share positive actions.
- 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-to-day. 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](http://centredecrise.ca/listecentres)
- **Suicide prevention crisis helpline**  
Crisis helpline that provides suicide prevention services 24/7:  
1 866 APPELLE (277-3553)

For a host of other helpful resources, visit [Quebec.ca/gettingbetter](http://Quebec.ca/gettingbetter)

**Quebec.ca/Gettingbetter**

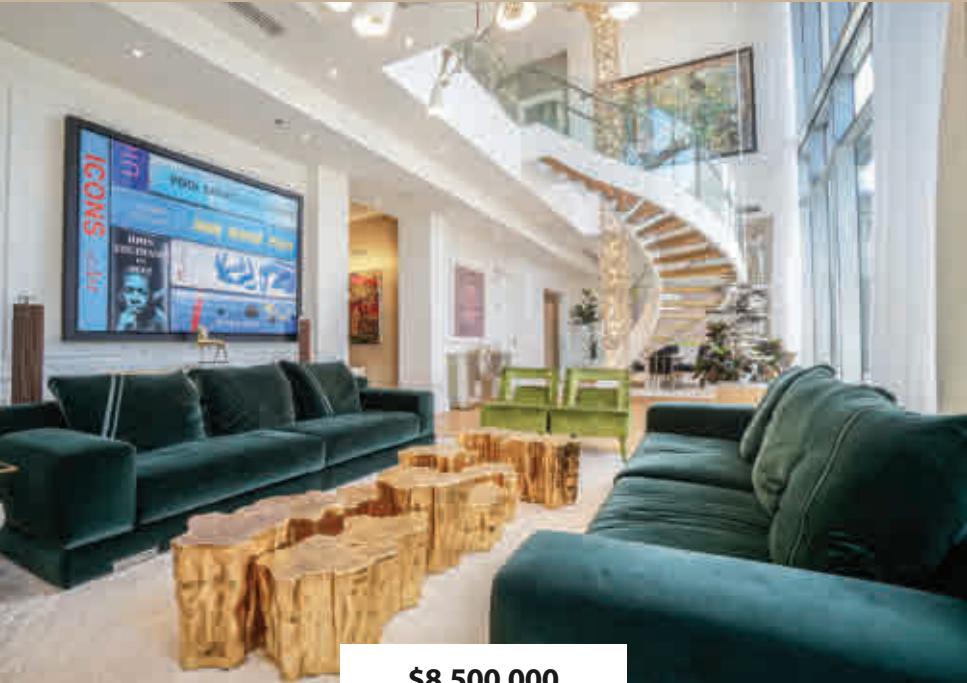
 **Info-Social 811**

**Québec** 



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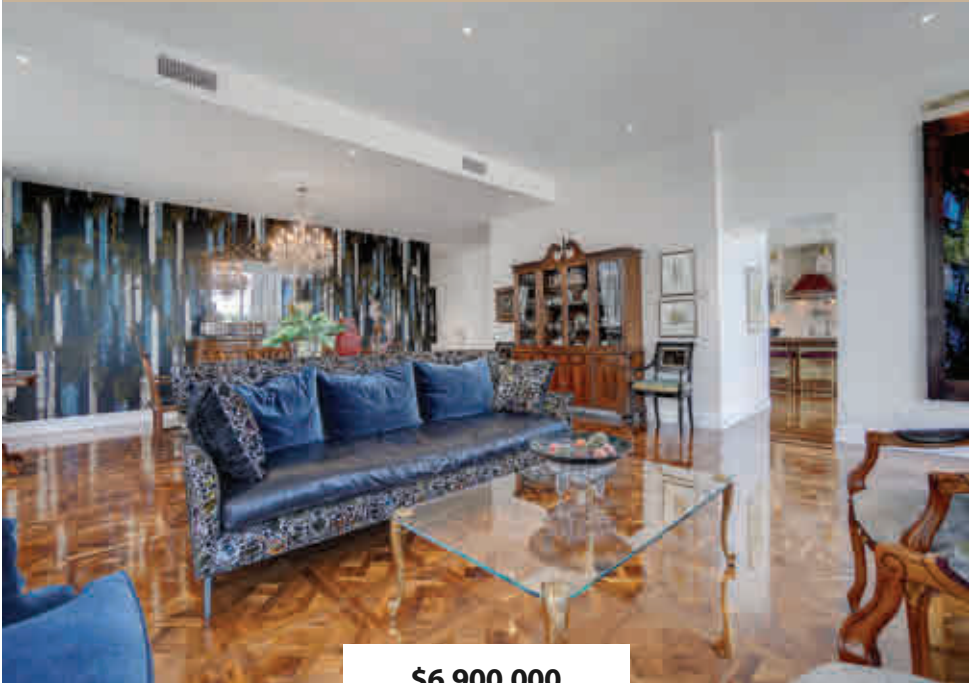
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BUILDING  
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BOUCHERVILLE



SOLD

TOWN OF MOUNT-ROYAL



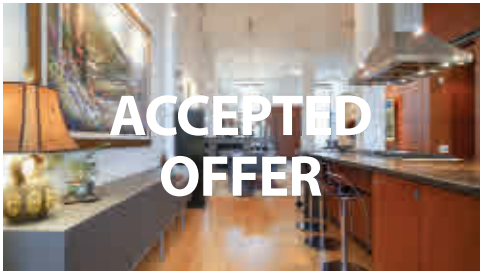
SOLD

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OFFER

AV. FORDEN, WESTMOUNT



ACCEPTED  
OFFER

"LOFTS REDPATH", SOUTH WEST



ACCEPTED  
OFFER

"ACADIA", GOLDEN SQUARE MILE



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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2020

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
102 Columbia	Vidar Swansson & Lydia Ruth Thrastardottir	\$1,335,000	\$1,068,800	24.9%
178 Côte St. Antoine	John Eric Goode	\$1,929,400	\$2,078,000	-7.2%
4280 Dorchester	Bruno Desautels & Elizabeth Gllinenaki	\$3,900,000	\$2,870,800	35.9%
312 Lansdowne	Robert D. Asch	\$1,450,000	\$1,545,900	-6.2%
732 Lexington	Janet Findlay-Harkness, Karen Findlay & Graham Findlay	\$2,000,000	\$1,775,000	12.7%
376 Metcalfe	Aïda Lafrance-Rodrigue & Geneviève Grenon-Laberge	\$990,000	\$1,100,000	-10.0%
429 Mount Stephen	Pascal Elie & Charmian Harvey	\$1,500,000	\$1,277,800	17.4%
320 Redfern	Antoine Roussos & Georgina Droubalis Roussos	\$2,280,000	\$2,341,400	-2.6%
4769 Sherbrooke	Daniel Kraus & Deborah Martin	\$2,125,000	\$2,002,900	6.1%
764 Upper Belmont	Kevin Lachapelle & Marie-Andrée Beaudry	\$2,965,000	\$2,117,400	40.0%
774 Upper Lansdowne	Caroline Charton	\$2,350,000	\$2,267,400	3.6%
<b>DUPLEXES</b>				
87-89 Columbia	George Hayami	\$1,600,000	\$1,242,700	28.8%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
200 Lansdowne #305	Jacqueline Beaudoin-Ross	\$616,000	\$644,200	-4.4%
200 Lansdowne #502	Christina Vincelli	\$649,000	\$705,600	-8.0%
4410 St. Catherine #3D	Fiducie Pascal Cauchi	\$650,000	\$546,100	19.0%
<b>SHARE SALES</b>				
382-2A Metcalfe, 53%	James Michael Little	\$730,000	\$663,931 <sup>1</sup>	10.0%
<b>OTHER</b>				
79 Bruce	Itshak Hanna Enterprise Inc.	\$2,775,000	\$1,881,300	47.5%

<sup>1</sup>Exclusive use of 382 Metcalfe. Valuation is 53% of \$1,252,700.



172 CHEMIN EDGEHILL, WESTMOUNT  
ASKING \$6,800,000



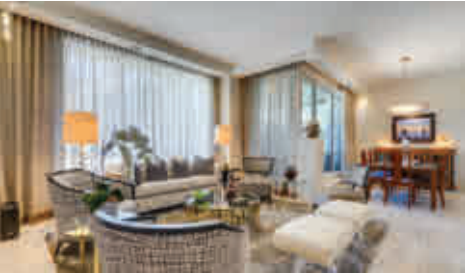
ACCEPTED OFFER  
SUMMIT CRESCENT, WESTMOUNT



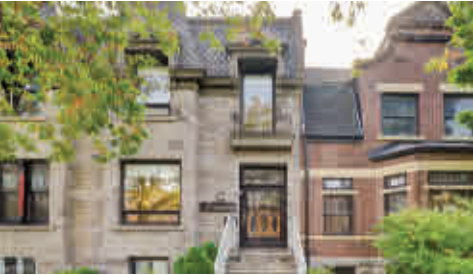
ACCEPTED OFFER  
LYNCROFT, HAMPSTEAD



ACCEPTED OFFER  
WOOD AVENUE, WESTMOUNT



215 REDFERN AVE #406, WESTMOUNT  
ASKING \$2,095,000



4612 STE-CATHERINE W., WESTMOUNT  
ASKING \$1,995,000 (COMMERCIAL)



1455 SHERBROOKE W. #807, VILLE-MARIE  
ASKING \$1,595,000



200 LANSDOWNE AVE #101, WESTMOUNT  
ASKING \$799,000



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**Real Estate**

ANDY DODGE

# June transfers: Côte Road sale highlighted

This is only the third full duplex to have sold in the first six months of the year. Another June sale involved one of the two shares of 382-2A Metcalfe, which went for \$730,000.

So far, Westmount's one- and two-family sales volume includes only 57 transactions (through June), the second-lowest volume in recent history. In 1976, as Montreal was getting ready for the Olympics, only 52 homes sold in the first six months.

**Condos**

Three condominium sales are also included in the June list. It is perhaps significant that two of the three, both at 200 Lansdowne Ave., sold for less than their valuations, while all three, apartments in relatively new buildings, ranged in price from \$616,000 to \$650,000.

The only other June sale involved a four-unit building at 79 Bruce Ave., which sold for \$2,775,000. The building last sold in 2017 for \$2,250,000.

*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2020. A list of sales can be found on p. 20.*

One of Westmount's oldest houses changed hands in June this year, as 178 Côte St. Antoine Rd. sold for just under \$2 million from the Goode family, which had owned the property since 1884 (see last week's *Independent*, p. 10). The house was built in 1840 as part of a four-house "Metcalfe Terrace" project, and today two of those houses remain; the other one, 168 Côte St. Antoine, is on the market now.

The June transfers list includes eleven single-family dwellings, ranging in price from \$990,000 to \$3,900,000, the lowest being a stately house at 376 Metcalfe Ave., corner Melbourne Ave., while the highest was an elegant three-story brownstone house at 4280 Dorchester Blvd., just east of Bruce Ave.

The Metcalfe sale went for \$110,000 less than its municipal valuation, at 10 percent the biggest mark-down of the month and one of three houses to sell below tax value in June.

The second-highest-priced house, at 764 Upper Belmont Ave., represented the highest mark-up over valuation, 40 percent. The only duplex to sell in June was 87-89 Columbia Ave., which sold for \$1,600,000.



376 Metcalfe, the lowest June price at \$990,000 and the biggest mark-down, 10 percent, on November 24.

**Agglo, cont'd. from p. 1**

the following year, given shortfalls faced by Montreal for 2020, she suggested.

The total of the *quote-parts* of the 15 cities of \$438 million represents an increase of 3.3 percent in the amount they'll pay toward the aggro's 2021 budget of \$2.5 billion.

Compared with the other demerged cities, the rise in Westmount's *quote-part* of 2 percent is the third-lowest change after Dorval Island (minus 0.5 percent) and Montreal West (up 1.6 percent). The highest hit is Baie d'Urfé at 6.4 percent, followed by St. Anne de Bellevue at 4.7 percent and Dorval, 4.4 percent.



764 Upper Belmont, the highest mark-up, 40 percent, on November 24.



4280 Dorchester, the highest price, \$3,900,000, on November 24.

## Mayor Smith switches aggro committees

Mayor Christina Smith said last week she no longer represents the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) on the Montreal and agglomeration Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee.

She resigned earlier in the year and switched to the Economic Development Committee, saying the decisions of the F&A were already predetermined by Montreal. This is the same reason that caused former Westmount mayor Peter Trent to leave the F&A on two occasions during his many years on the committee.





*History by  
the House*

ANDY DODGE

The northeast corner of St. Catherine St. and Victoria Ave. has been through more transformations than a chameleon in the fall, with four duplexes and a triplex constructed in 1895, now three condominium buildings.

In 1873, as Westmount farms were facing the continued pressure of growth from downtown Montreal, Isae Hurtubise, one of the original farmers whose family had settled in the area on land ceded to his ancestors in about 1650, decided that the driveway from his Côte St. Antoine farmhouse should be developed.

**Victoria Ave. began as a driveway**

After building another house – now

**– 1874 –**

Village of Notre Dame de Grâce (area of current-day Westmount and NDG) incorporated

**– 1876 –**

Village of Côte St. Antoine (area of current-day Westmount) breaks away. It becomes a town in 1890.

**– 1888 –**

wooden railway bridge opens over Glen Rd., southwest of current-day Westmount recreation centre. It is replaced by the still-in-use stone bridge in 1892

**– 1895 –**

Town of Côte St. Antoine changes its name to Westmount. It becomes a city in 1908.

**– 1958 –**

Westmount's previous arena opens as an open-sided venue. It was enclosed in 1963. The pool at this facility was added in 1962.

**– 2002 to 2005 –**

The merged years. Westmount is merged January 1, 2002 with the city of Montreal and becomes one of its boroughs. It demerged on January 1, 2006.

**– 2013 –**

Current Westmount recreation centre opens.

# 4821-43 St. Catherine St.: Transformations

known as Riverview – for his daughter and her husband, Ephrem Hudon, he sold the driveway to his grandson, Ephrem Jr., stretching all the way down the hill across Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd.), which at the time was the main east-west street along “the flats.”

The young dry goods merchant named the driveway Victoria Ave. and subdivided Lot 215 with great intention, while Notre Dame de Grâce and later Côte St. Antoine emerged as independent municipalities.

At the same time, the Vienna stock market crashed and the world fell into a severe depression.

A Hopkins map in 1879 shows just six buildings scattered along Victoria Ave. south of Côte St. Antoine. By 1883, Lovell's Directory lists 13 families having addresses on Victoria, but no civic numbers.

**Sisson's Lane, plus**

A small street reached eastward from Claremont Ave. to slightly east of Victoria south of Western Ave. but did not connect yet to “Sisson's Lane,” which was to become the extension of St. Catherine St. from downtown Montreal.

Hudon planned three subdivisions to front on this (unnamed) street at the corner of Victoria. He sold them off in 1875 to Louis Edouard Morin, a downtown merchant who called himself a “distiller and miller, high wines, whiskies, etc.” Morin paid \$1,715 or 12¢ per square foot.

Speculators like Morin held their property while wags in Ottawa fought over the extension of Canadian Pacific Railway through Westmount and on to western Canada, thanks mainly to the construction of a wooden bridge across Glen Rd. in 1888. It was replaced by the current stone bridge in 1892. (See October 27, p. RE-24 for more on the land speculation and politicking that went on.)

Finally, in 1890 he was able to sell the land to a lawyer, Richard Heneker, who was a solicitor for CPR and paid him 40¢ per



The remaining buildings – 4821 to 4827 – on November 11.

square foot, obviously showing the effect of increased activity in the area. The price grew to 45¢ per foot by 1894 when a contractor named Marie Edmund Dansereau took over the property, then 60¢ per foot in 1895 when he sold to another lawyer, Raymond Préfontaine, MP for Chambly at the time.

**Buildings arrive**

Exactly 18 months later, Préfontaine found another contractor, Hormidas Choquette, who planned and built five buildings on the three lots.

The buildings included two very tall, storefront duplexes at 4821-23 St. Catherine and 4825-27 St. Catherine (still standing today), with each living unit of two storeys, then a much larger three-storey triplex (4829-33), a similar duplex at 4835-37 and finally a three-storey triplex at 4839-43 St. Catherine, corner Victoria.

By 1896 Choquette was able to rent both units at 4821-23 and the upper unit at 4825 St. Catherine; by the time Lovell's Directory was published in 1897, all four of the units in the duplexes were rented, presumably while construction was continuing further west. Those three buildings did not come on line until 1899 but appear to have been fully rented by the time Choquette sold all

five buildings in 1905 for \$33,000 to Thomas Joseph Kenney, a “commercial traveller,” who moved in to 4841 St. Catherine.

**Railway station arrives (1907)**

The Westmount railway station, which had originally been located at the foot of Abbott Ave., was moved to the land across the street in 1907. That did not appear to have helped the value of the buildings, which Kenney sold to another speculator, Olybrins Constantineau, an “industriel” from Baie d'Urfé, for \$39,000 in 1911.

This started a whole series of transfers of the five buildings together: Constantineau sold to another “industriel” from Iberville, Eugène Roy, in 1916 for \$43,900, then in 1917 they went to David Collins Gillett, a real estate dealer from Tampa, Florida, for \$50,500, then to Leah Rudner, who lived at 1696 St. Urbain St. in Montreal, in 1919 for only \$41,500.

Various other seizures and bankruptcies ensued before the group of buildings came into the hands of Adéotat Chauvet, a notary from St. Geneviève, by the beginning of 1924.

Again, it appears, there were various financial problems and Chauvet was forced to turn over his assets to Sun Trust Co. Ltd., which auctioned off the buildings to one Wilfred Wilson, who purchased the five for \$35,000 in May 1925.

**Boileau ownership lasts**

Four years later, he turned the property over to another St. Geneviève notary, Louis Joseph Boileau, and suddenly there was peace in lower Westmount. Boileau looked



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after the properties and (apparently) collected rent for the rest of his life, and when he died in 1965, his two daughters took over.

It appears the two-storey upper/lower duplex design was not immutable. In 1906, the address of “4823a” appeared on the ground floor of the first building, as the lower, 4823, unit was split into two, one apartment on each floor. The same happened next door, where the ground-floor apartment sported the number 4827a starting in 1941.

### Fire! (1977)

Then on a bitter cold day in January 1977, a gas leak caused an early-morning fire at Westmount Pizzeria, which had rented the ground floor (4843) at the corner of Victoria Ave. since 1967 (according to Lovell’s). The fire destroyed the three-storey building, which was never replaced, though the next-door buildings were saved.

In December 1980, the Boileau sisters sold the two eastern buildings (still standing today) to Normand Roy, a translator, and Zygmunt Nowakowski, a chemist, who both lived nearby at 4644 St. Catherine, and Guy Dupre, a downtown businessman, for \$166,800.

The three partitioned the buildings between them, and a year later Dupre sold 4821-23a St. Catherine, the easternmost building, to Calder Spence and a numbered company presided over by George Syrovatka, who at about that time was involved in developing properties in other

## Blaze leaves families homeless

A spectacular early-morning blaze destroyed the three-storey greystone building at 4843 St. Catherine street west, corner Victoria Avenue, yesterday morning, sounding alarms at Westmount’s five mutual aid clubs and leaving two families homeless.

Nobody was injured in the blaze, which was believed to have started in the rear of the building, though actual cause had not been determined by press time.

A million dollar value at 4:40 am is reported. Flames coming from the building, officers associated nearby in the upper block. Immediately, officers called an emergency truck to the scene.

An apartment and the Westmount Pizzeria restaurant which shared the ground floor were both saved.

Quick work by Westmount firemen and firefighters from St. Laurent, Town of Mount Royal, City of St. Louis and Outremont contained the fire to the one building, and flames were brought under control by a semi-truck about an hour after flames arrived. Firefighters from Hampton arrived at Westmount’s House No. 1 until late morning when the Westmount men were called home.

Westmount firemen were still pouring water on the smoldering remains at mid-afternoon.

Westmount Fire Chief Paul E. Dwyer expected fire to arrive.

Continued on page seven

### Car towed for removal

A British Columbia resident visiting some friends on Christmas eve, who had parked his car on Victoria Avenue, was towed away by police at 10:40 am last Friday in report the vehicle had been stolen. It was not known whether the car was used for some purpose, but was found to be damaged.

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The vacant lot in NDG on November 20, viewed from above.

PHOTO: HARVEY AISENTHAL

## Groupe Maurice releases plan for NDG retirement home

As has been previously reported, Groupe Maurice is building a 10-storey seniors’ residence in NDG at Claremont, St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve on the border with Westmount and the worksite now includes a small plot of rented CP land in Westmount at York and St. Catherine.

On November 19, the company issued a press release laying out some of its planned schedule and own objectives.

First, there will be excavation, “which began several days ago,” to be followed by pile driving, which is expected to last until the start of the summer.

The formwork of the foundation will then begin.

Among measures announced to mitigate the effect on neighbours were an assessment of the condition of surrounding structures to attempt to limit “vibration damage generated during certain

The January 1977 fire. “I heard about it on the radio, tore off from my house on Hampton Ave. [in NDG] with no breakfast, completely unprepared for how cold it was (-20°C, I think),” recalls columnist (then reporter) Andy Dodge.

parts of Westmount and environs.

At the same time, Nowakowski sold 4825-27a St. Catherine to Jagdish Handa,

an economics professor at McGill University, but in March 1983, he turned over the building to another company headed by

## THE WESTMOUNT Examiner

Making not just your house but all of Westmount your home

Vol. XLIX, No. 2 Westmount, P.Q., H2Z 2W4, Thursday, January 13, 1977 20c



### Rude awakening

A fire alarm was heard ringing in the rear of the corner of St. Catherine street and Victoria Avenue at 4:25 am last Friday. Firefighters arrived at the scene and found the building was a mess.

A fire alarm was heard ringing in the rear of the corner of St. Catherine street and Victoria Avenue at 4:25 am last Friday. Firefighters arrived at the scene and found the building was a mess.

## WMA recommends woman

Spence and with financial guarantees from Syrovatka.

Soon afterward the upstairs units of each (former) duplex were divided in two, creating 4821a and 4825a St. Catherine, and in early 1984 both buildings were divided into condominiums.

### Fire #2 and more demolition (1982)

Meanwhile, another fire on October 30, 1982 struck the two buildings still owned by the Boileau sisters, reportedly causing some \$200,000 damage, which led to another demolition and forced the sisters to sell what was left for \$25,000, in October 1984, to a company known as Vimcom Enterprises, whose president, Ottavio Cau, had a head office at 374 Victoria Ave., just up the street.

This second demolition left an even larger vacant lot at the corner, which was leased by the city to create a community garden in 1997.

By then, the days were numbered for what was left of the buildings (though Lovell’s lists one last resident at 4931 St. Catherine St. until 1992), and negotiations were under way to clear out the rest of the property and build a four-storey condominium building (205 Victoria Ave.), which was completed in 2005.

Thus, the two stonefront buildings are all that is left of the original project, now containing four condominiums each.

### The remaining buildings

ADDRESS	LAST SALE DATE	PRICE	2020 VALUATION
4821:	May 2018	\$425,000	\$390,000
4821A:	Feb 2014	\$350,000	\$381,600
4823:	Mar 2016	\$400,000	\$389,300
4823A:	Oct 2019	\$437,000	\$321,900
4825:	Jun 2019	\$411,000	\$389,600
4825A:	May 2016	\$325,000	\$370,400
4827:	May 1993	\$108,000	\$364,600
4827A:	Jan 2016	\$365,000	\$366,900

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# Composting in my backyard



TONY MOFFAT

Composting organic matter is an essential strategy towards waste reduction. Westmount's compost collection program for single home dwellings is a great service, but is used by only 30 to 40 percent of residences according to the WHCP survey (see previous articles in this series by Ross Brown & Susan Grundy in the February 11 and June 2, 2020 issues of the *Independent*).

Clearly, we need to do better! An alternative is to do it yourself in your own backyard, as I have been doing for the past 20 years. Here's my simple recipe:

- Use two bins. I bought mine fairly cheaply from the city years ago; they can now be ordered from Hogg's Hardware for \$120. One bin is active (being filled) and the other, when full, is idle, letting

Nature do the work of the final decomposing. These two bins are conveniently placed just outside the side door of our semi-detached house, leading to our small garden. They are easily accessible all year long, even under a metre of snow that I easily shovel as necessary for access.

- Use a smaller container (kept indoors under the sink), which is dumped into the active bin every day or two.
- Periodically stir the compost. I use a compost aerator turning tool from Lee Valley with propeller-like metal blades, avoiding anaerobic decomposition that produces methane (a bad greenhouse gas) and unpleasant odours.
- It helps to be vegetarian or vegan since decaying meat attracts animals and smells. If you do have meat waste, better to use the Westmount green bin.
- It takes a lot of decomposed matter to make good soil, but I usually get about 30 good shovels full every 2 years from each bin.
- Such good soil is excellent for any outside garden. In fact, why have potential



compost carted away when you can use it directly yourself?

- This may be a challenge in apartment buildings, but why not try convincing your landlord that local composting is a good idea?

In the accompanying photo, note the two compost bins (bought at different times so looking quite different), one with the lid off and showing the tool to turn the

compost, the other with lid on and our tin filling container on top.

I often wonder why more people don't do this. For those of you who do, please consider writing a letter about it to the *Westmount Independent* newspaper! We really need to reach 100 percent composting at some point, sooner rather than later.

*Tony Moffat lives on Sunnyside.*



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Viviane, queen of hearts



Dear Viviane, tugging at our heart-strings with her sweet eyes and unique contrast of white and tabby on her mask and cape. A cuddling and playful two-year-old, just outgrowing kittenhood and settling into an adult routine, she enjoys snoozing and checking out the kitchen for snack. Yes, Viviane is ready for adoption in a family environment from the Montreal SPCA cattery. She is healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and micro-chipped. Her identification number is 46169164 and you can refer to it when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for Viviane 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.

### Please donate

The Montreal SPCA is launching its annual year-end campaign

For a second consecutive year, donations received up to December 31 will be matched to the SPCA by the Bryant-Mapes fund.

The funds will be used to reduce the

number of abandonments by developing its behavioural consultation service for guardians who cannot afford the services of an animal behaviourist. Also these funds will give priority to saving more orphaned kittens as part of their ever-expanding neonatal program, which will continue in 2021 for a third consecutive year.

Please donate to the Matching Gift Campaign online at the [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) website or by calling the shelter directly at 1.866.366.7722 by December 31.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

So adorably cute, we will all agree. Rebel is an affectionate Lhasa type, with silky cream-shaded hair that can be trimmed short or groomed longer with a top knot and bow, up from his precious face.

He is a deserving little prince, a happy house dog in his basket and a perfect sporting dog on leash in his little walking coat. With his engaging personality, Rebel is the best companion to all in the family, with adults, children, cats, dogs and lucky visitors.

This healthy little six-year-old is in need now, as he is waiting for adoption as soon as possible from the Montreal SPCA kennel. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered, and microchipped. Rebel's identification number is 46017698 and you can refer to it when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out

## Tiny Rebel

the adoption application for him 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.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne







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# Manoir Westmount GM Thompson is retiring

By MARTIN C. BARRY

If there is a saying that might best describe Manoir Westmount general manager Tom Thompson's style of management, it could well be the traditional ship captain's order to the helmsman: "Steady as she goes."

Prior to being hired in 1995 as the third general manager to lead the seniors' retirement residence since it opened in 1979, Thompson, who is retiring on December 31, managed the Pointe Claire Yacht Club. He will continue on as part-time book-

keeper. Under Thompson's stewardship over the past quarter-century, Manoir Westmount has stayed ship-shape, and the residence hasn't had to navigate any serious storms at the same time.

While COVID-19 has ravaged many retirement residences since last spring when the pandemic began, Thompson said there hadn't been a single case of the viral infection at Manoir Westmount.

And little has changed at Manoir Westmount over the past 25 years, Thompson said in an interview last week with the

*Westmount Independent*. "I would say our average age has increased over the years," he said. "But apart from that, we basically have the same mission, the same great service, the same great location and the same great price."

Although experts on aging note that people are generally living longer, Thompson feels the age increase at Manoir Westmount is perhaps due more to the fact retirees are opting to stay at home longer before moving into a retirement residence.

### Keep things current

Asked what, if anything, he felt most proud to have accomplished at Manoir Westmount, Thompson said one of his key focuses was to always keep things current, so that nothing ever fell behind the times.

"We always set aside enough funds to maintain our capital, to maintain the building, to keep our heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems and our furnishings up to date," he said.

"Some residences let things slide and they become less attractive. But I've always been very, very focused on conservative budgeting, while making sure we've always put aside enough funds to keep the place pristine. Our goal has always been to provide the best possible seniors' accommo-



dation, at the most affordable rates."

While Manoir Westmount is managed as an independent corporation, the Rotary Club of Westmount planted the seeds and spearheaded the efforts to build and open the residence. Manoir Westmount's board of directors is made up of members of the Rotary Club of Westmount.

"They've been very, very supportive of me over the years," said Thompson.

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# infoWESTMOUNT

2020.12.01 • Vol. 1/16

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Published by the City of Westmount

## NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 décembre

## NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, December 7

### Collecte annuelle de denrées alimentaires de Westmount

Chaque année, l'équipe de la Sécurité publique recueille des dons de nourriture et d'argent pour soutenir les familles démunies de Westmount pendant la période des fêtes. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Rappels d'hiver

Avec l'arrivée de la saison des manteaux et des chaussures glissantes, prenez notes de quelques rappels utiles sur le déneigement, le stationnement, les collectes de matières résiduelles, l'électricité et plus. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Ateliers sur le bien-être en ligne

Jusqu'au 17 décembre, le Service des sports et loisirs de Westmount vous propose des ateliers sur le bien-être les mercredis et jeudis. Inscription requise. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Carte d'accès 2021

Demandez votre carte d'accès aux installations de loisirs 2021 en ligne à compter du 1er décembre. Deux preuves de résidence sont exigées. [westmount.org/carte-dacces](http://westmount.org/carte-dacces)



### Westmount Annual Food Drive

Every year, the Public Safety team collects donations of food and cash in support of local families in need for the holiday period. There are several ways you can contribute.

[westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Refrigerated Rink in Westmount Park

The ice rink is now open for general skating. Preventive sanitary measures are in effect. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Light Up Westmount

We invite you to decorate the exterior of your home to bring holiday cheer during these unprecedented times. Whether it's celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, or just brightening up the neighbourhood, participants are invited to share photos for the City's social media. You could win a prize! [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Flu Vaccination at CLSC

Due to the pandemic, there will not be a flu vaccination clinic at Victoria Hall. The vaccine is available by appointment at [dicsante.ca](http://dicsante.ca).

### Winter reminders

As we enter the season of coats and slippery roads, we have a few useful reminders about snow removal, parking, recycling collection, electricity use, and more. Consult our website at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Online Wellness Workshops

Until December 17th, the Westmount Sports and Recreation Department offers wellness workshops on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Registration required. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### 2021 Facility Access Card

Apply for your 2021 Recreation Facility Access Card online as of December 1st. Two proofs of residence required. [westmount.org/facility-card](http://westmount.org/facility-card)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

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**Atelier : Créer un journal à puces avec Cat**  
**Jeudis 3 et 10 décembre, 16 h 30** sur Zoom (9 à 13 ans). Une introduction au journal à puces. Tu as besoin d'un carnet? Nous en avons un pour toi. Places limitées. Inscriptions : [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

**Sessions en studio au Victoria Hall**  
**Samedi 5 décembre à 20 h** en ligne. ARC Trio (jazz). Savourez nos concerts intimes en direct sur YouTube. Vous aurez les meilleurs sièges! (Concert du 19 décembre : Orchestre nouvelle génération) [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Atelier de cuisine pour souligner la fête du Hannoukah**

**Dimanche 6 décembre, 13 h** sur Zoom. Un atelier virtuel avec The Wandering Chew pour

apprendre à faire des latkes au fromage ricotta et la confiture de kaki. Inscriptions : [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

### Soirée de quiz virtuel

**Samedi 12 décembre 19 h** en ligne. Testez vos compétences sur votre ordinateur ou votre appareil mobile. Inscriptions : [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

**Lundi 7 décembre, 13 h 30 à 15 h 30** sur Zoom. Ouvert aux abonnés de la Bibliothèque. Inscription requise. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Club de cinéma de Westmount

Le club est maintenant en ligne! Inscrivez-vous au bulletin du club à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Service de cueillette sans contact : horaire

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Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h

Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h

La Bibliothèque demeure fermée au public. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

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## LIBRARY

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### Workshop: Bullet Journalling with Cat

**Thursdays, December 3 & 10, 4:30 p.m.** on Zoom (ages 9 to 13). An introduction to bullet journalling. Need a notebook? We've got one for each participant. Space is limited. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Victoria Hall Studio Sessions

**Saturday, December 5 at 8 p.m.** online. ARC Trio (jazz). Enjoy our intimate live concerts live on Youtube from the best seats in the house! (December 19 concert: Orchestre nouvelle génération) [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Hannukah Cooking Workshop

**Sunday, December 6, 1 p.m.** on Zoom. Join The Wandering Chew for a virtual workshop to learn how to make sweet ricotta cheese latkes and persimmon jam. Register at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

### Virtual Quiz Night

**Saturday, December 12, 7 p.m.**, online. Test your trivia skills using your computer or mobile device. Sign up at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

**Monday, December 7, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** on Zoom. Open to Library members. Registration required. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Westmount Cinema Club

The Club is now online! Sign up for the Club's newsletter at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Contactless pickup service hours

Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Library remains closed to the public. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Need a Library Card?

Request your membership card online at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).





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Oops, wrong ... premier, street, city?!



These anti-mask protestors made their way up Clarke Ave. from Sherbrooke St. on November 29 seeking the house of Premier François Legault. Legault pointed out afterwards on Twitter that he does not live in Westmount. The premier who left office in 2012 lived on another street in Westmount during his term and his house was the site of “Maple Spring” protests in that year (see, for example, April 3, 2012, p. 1). Two other premiers have held office between then and Legault. Ironically, a story from 2012 was entitled, “Council tables anti-mask by-law, ‘new tool’ for police” (June 12, 2012, p. 5). Former city councillor Patrick Martin counted 17 protestors and 14 police cars.

PHOTO COURTESY OF P. MARTIN.



Investments of \$100 or more will also receive two limited-edition PPE masks, to help protect those in your world. To redeem, use promo code: **WESTMOUNT**

What will you give the world?

This year, science was at the forefront of conversations worldwide. For over 70 years, the Weizmann Institute of Science has been a global leader with discoveries that have dramatically increased successful pregnancies for women conceiving through In Vitro Fertilization and to a new way to treat prostate cancer by eliminating harmful side-effects. Weizmann Canada has worked with Canadians since 1964 to support these world-changing discoveries. Now, with over 65 labs focused on the coronavirus, the Weizmann Institute is also a significant force providing solutions for infectious diseases. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus proclaimed that the COVID-19 pandemic is “easily the most severe” emergency ever declared since International Health Regulations were put in place following the 2002-04 SARS outbreak.

Still, Weizmann researcher Dr. Noam Stern-Ginossar in the Department of Molecular Genetics believes that more complicated problems have been solved in the past. It just takes time. Dr. Stern-Ginossar studies how viruses invade healthy cells and take over the cell’s systems to survive and reproduce. Her earliest discovery was on herpes, which was selected by the journal *Nature Medicine* as one of the notable scientific advances of 2007. Dr. Stern-Ginossar’s lab is applying an innovative technique called ribosome profiling to reveal the “what, when, where, and how” of protein production. This innovative method may help us to understand the full extent of viral proteins, to counteract them through the

development of future anti-viral treatments. A virus is genetic material surrounded by a protein coat that hijacks healthy cells in our bodies. When they infect a cell, viruses take over that cell’s protein-making machinery, causing it to produce more viral proteins to spread to other cells. Much progress has been achieved in the last century in the treatment and mitigation of infectious diseases, primarily due to the development of antibiotics and vaccines, which have saved the lives of millions and increased global life expectancy. Through similar research, future viruses could also see a similar fate. **What discoveries would you fund?** Donate today to invest in the change you want to see in the world.

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## A 'Collange' of options, styles and colours



### Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Greene Ave.'s Collange Lingerie has enjoyed a faithful clientele for over five years. "Even though we had to close for COVID, our clients rushed back as soon as we re-opened," said Solange Cohen, right, co-owner with Bopha Penn (not pictured).

Customers spend time admiring – and buying – underwear, ranging from colours-of-the-rainbow HankyPanky pants ("both high- and low-rise sell well") to, well, sexy-racey choices.

Possibly the shop is best known for its extensive range of bras of all shapes, sizes, colours and styles. More importantly, the boutique's trained staff gives fitting advice, invaluable to many women, and a great help for dressing for different fashion looks, especially during summer months "when tops can be barer."

Collange also offers a collection of gorgeous loungewear. And what better time to

feel pretty instead of sweatshirt-y?

"It helps lift the spirits!" The fashionable line follows trends with two collections each year: spring/summer and fall/winter. Why not bring a little dazzle into your life with the swish of silken fabrics as you sit down to binge-watch yet another show?

The shop's unique masks are doubly attractive. No more antiseptic blue/white ones. Collange's colourful masks have elegant matching scarves: special style from Italia.

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# The long and the short of it: Organic approach to bad hair days



*Return to Retail*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

*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 touch-ups as insistent roots eagerly displayed their gray-and-white personalities.

This “The Long and the Short of It” series updates gentle readers on how our local salons survived, and now thrived – considering. Obviously, they 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 pay for such expenses such as plastic screens et cetera, due to the pandemic’s persistence, and, indeed, how they are flourishing (or struggling) today.

Stay tuned for other hair-raising stories.

### O’Way

The “O’Way” in Westmount’s O’Way Coiffure and Spa stands for “organic way.” Owner Patricia Soussana, above, discovered the Italian line many years ago, and today it is a unique O’Way salon carrying only their 100-percent certified organic products.

Created with herbs grown on a bio-dynamic farm near Bologna, O’Way has used glass and aluminum materials – items with the least impact on the environment – instead of plastics since 2013.

Patricia also offers renowned Jane Ire-



dale natural skincare cosmetics, including the best-selling mineral powder foundation.

The feeling of wellness starts on the staircase leading to the salon. Soothing pink Himalayan salt candles light your way. Each of the COVID-protected stylist’s areas has one, its gentle glow reflected in the mirrors.

“Even our hair dyes are organic,” explains Patricia, showing me the Bleach No-Bleach packages.

“During the COVID lock-down [in spring], we not only prepared personalized colour kits, complete with brushes and bowls for our clients, but I communicated with them on FaceTime if they needed advice. And during these stressful days – well, months actually – many of my cus-

tomers have requested the salon’s Ayurvedic Scalp Massage.”

She adds that the O’Way Hair Butter Treatment helps restore vitality and softness to hair. For those who still preferred to be apart from others, on warm days they enjoyed solitude in the sun, having their treatments and hair styled on O’Way’s back balcony.

“My whole salon is organic,” confirms Soussana. “We also make our own salt scrubs with natural oils.” O’Way is supporting the 2020 Israel Cancer Research Fund’s 15th Women of Action Luncheon – taking place virtually of course.

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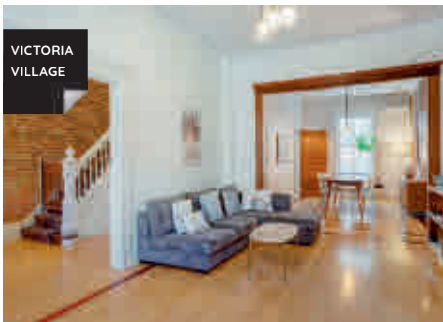
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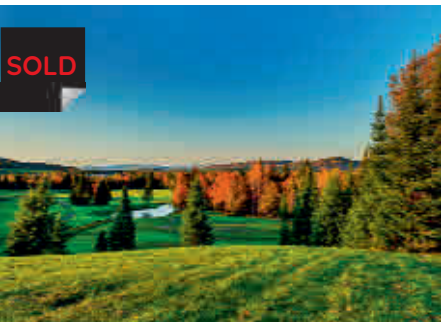
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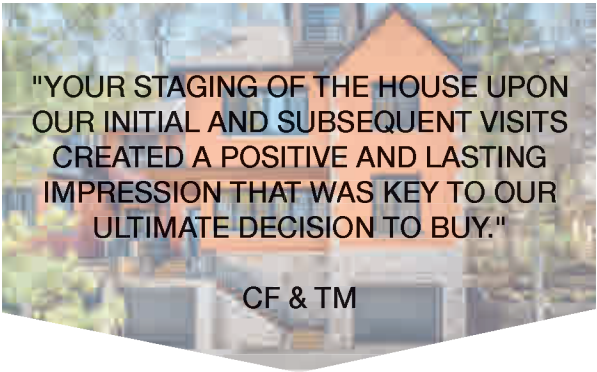
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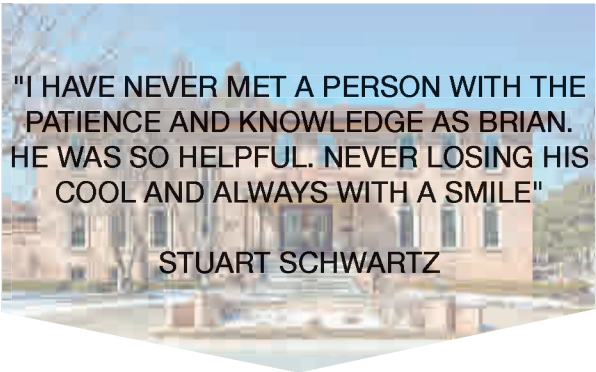
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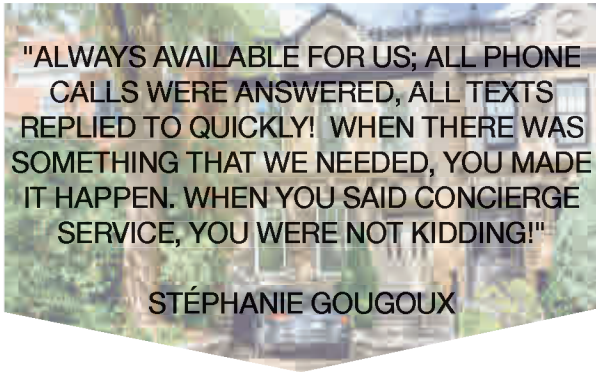
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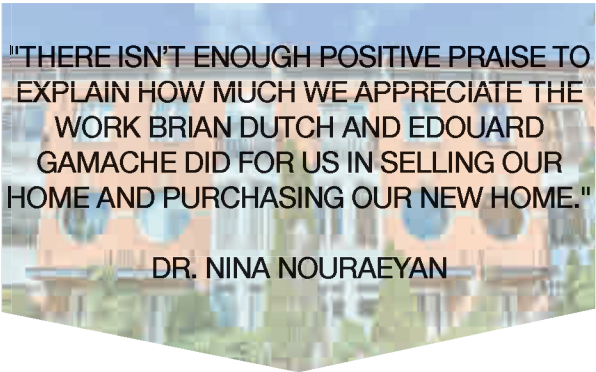
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