

Building permits being issued, parking hiatus ends May 18 City resuming partial operations: retail, construction to restart

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While municipal buildings remain closed to the public, the city began partially re-opening last week and is moving into re-starting some of its services. "We're gradually getting back," city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

Some of the Quebec government's COVID-19 restrictions involving construction and retail were to be eased as of May 11 and 18 respectively, both of which will have spin-off effects including "the big one," he said, reinstatement of all parking enforcement, infrastructure projects and the re-opening of construction sites.

As a result, the two-month parking hiatus ends of May 18 for parking meters and time limits. Street-cleaning rules will also be enforced with tickets. The city has been asking people to respect them, although

was not issuing tickets.

While many city employees will continue working from home, the city began delivering some building permits last week. With the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) having met remotely, some of those projects that had been in the works have already been recommended for council approval May 4.

At construction sites, work may resume at a slower pace because of a long list of government-required conditions such as physical distancing and sanitation measures.

The council was expected to review its already approved street and building infrastructure projects and prioritize those that are feasible to be undertaken given time constraints and financing, Hurtubise said.

"Not all will go ahead as planned and some will *continued on p. 6*

Fort Westmount



Seen May 2 in Summit Woods where they have been taking daily walks are Shana Rotstein, David Perlman, their sons (from left) Ethan, Jayden and Alex, and their vizsla puppy Pax. One day last month, they noticed a fallen tree. The boys gathered a few branches and leant them against it. Every day afterwards, they added a few more branches and one day, when it started to rain, broken bark and leaves were added too. No nails or string were employed, and only fallen branches were used. Four other shacks were also visible in the neighbourhood.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Crafts, activities for all ages

Centre Greene posts ideas for people staying home

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nothing to do while staying home?

Centre Greene has posted video versions of many activities and crafts on its Facebook page as well as tai chi fitness videos, fun art, kite making and other interests to keep people busy over the current pandemic. These range from science to cooking.

They are accessible to anyone without having to have a Facebook account by Googling "Centre Greene Facebook."

"We're thrilled with however many people can see them," said executive director Beth Symansky. The community centre is used by more than 1,200 people a week.

Aim: 'to connect'

"One of our aims over the COVID closure of our building and programs is to connect with our members and be able to provide fun activities for everyone, including for kids to do with materials found around the house."

While the centre had been closed since

March 13 by provincial government directives, Symansky said, she was still awaiting word last week as to when they could reopen. "We're ready whenever they are!"

Cookies, bracelets, thermometers

Among the centre's many videos now on Facebook are how to make fortune cookies, friendship bracelets, homemade thermometers and lava lamps. New content is added Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Art Hive, the centre's Sunday program

that brings together people looking to be creative, is now also online.

Centre Greene's tai chi instructor teaches livestreamed classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays that can be viewed later via a channel link on the Facebook page.

There is also a call-out list for seniors needing someone to talk to, Symansky explained.

Members and staff will be reaching out to those who might benefit from the service by calling 514.931.6202 or emailing www.centregreene.org.

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Information and advice inside.

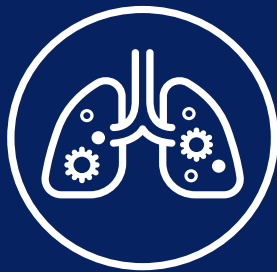
The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) causes a respiratory infection that can involve the following symptoms:



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Cough



Trouble
Breathing

Protecting yourself saves lives.



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Wash
your hands



Keep your
distance



Stay
at home

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Electricity use changes little

Despite more Westmount residents staying home or working from home during these pandemic days, electrical consumption has remained relatively stable, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

"It's the heating that tends to increase residential consumption," he said, and this has not applied as much as it might have during the winter. Any residential increase has likely been offset by a drop in commercial consumption now that many businesses are closed, he explained.

Hurtubise, who is Hydro Westmount's former director, said that once all meters have been read, there may be a more exact measurement of the consumption levels.

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Dog adoption, p. 13

Cat adoption, p. 14

Dodge on real estate transfers, p. 14



Council's message,
p. 10-11

City's revenue losses from COVID-19 under review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the city revises financial options in face of revenue losses over the pandemic, projections of amounts involved will not be known until the council reviews various scenarios, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

These options include identifying which infrastructure projects will go ahead since, in the case of Westmount which finances most of its capital works through the operating project, this is an area that

can be cut back, he explained.

While revenue shortfalls from parking, permits, recreation and others were not immediately available, he told the *Independent*, which had been requesting the information, that the city was not experiencing short-term financial issues. More information would be available this week, he said.

The city has short-term investments that can be cashed in as well as a \$5-million bank credit line, which it has not needed to use.

COVID-19 cases rise to 53 at 2 seniors' residences in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The number of COVID-19 cases tripled to 30 last week at the Place Kensington seniors' residences since the *Independent's* last report of 10 at April 27. This new number represents 16 percent of those at the private residence for mainly autonomous seniors on St. Catherine at the foot of Kensington.

The previous 23 reported at St. Margaret's long-term residence remained un-

changed, according to the Quebec government's listing at this week's press time May 4. This represented 24 percent of its residents. This is a public long-term care CHSLD (nursing home), on Hillside Ave., an increase from 21 (see story April 21, p. 1).

Since the government's reported numbers tend to change almost daily, updates at weekly publication times may no longer be applicable but are an indication of in-

Pedestrian safety corridors expand

Westmount's network of pedestrian corridors keeps expanding to allow for physical distancing. New routes opened over the last week include:

- Victoria Ave. between Sunnyside and Sherbrooke,
- Grosvenor Ave. between Sunnyside Ave. and St. Catherine,
- Arlington Ave. between Côte St. Antoine and Sherbrooke,
- Strathcona Ave. between Côte St. Antoine and Sherbrooke,
- Mount Stephen Ave. between Côte St. Antoine and Sherbrooke,
- The Boulevard, between Lansdowne and Argyle.
- Mount Pleasant Ave. between Holton and The Boulevard.

creases and/or which residences are affected.

On the other hand, at May 4, there were no COVID-19 cases recorded for Manoir Westmount, a private seniors' residence at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne, or at CHSLD Château Westmount, a private nursing home on de Maisonneuve at Victoria.

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Benefits of St. Léon expansion will accrue to families, community



Councillor's column

CONRAD PEART
DISTRICT 4

A school expansion has been proposed on the Kitchener Ave. side of École St. Léon de Westmount. The three-storey addition would house five new classrooms, a new library, a new multi-purpose room and additional auxiliary spaces. The expansion would offer improved facilities to the existing students and would accommodate approximately 115 new students from Westmount and nearby (for a total of approximately 800 students). Such an expansion would only be possible through variances to our zoning by-laws. The full details of the proposed project and requested variances are available on the city's website.

SCAOPI (Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposal for an Immovable) is the procedure through which the city invites the community into the project review process. With a SCAOPI, a council decision is eligible for a referendum if a sufficient portion of neighbouring citizens object to a project. Two public con-

sultations were held over the past year and each was attended by fewer than a dozen citizens. In any case, the project underwent multiple reviews by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) through which we addressed many issues, including concerns voiced by the community. Having received a favourable recommendation from PAC and the city's administration (employed staff), council adopted the final resolution to approve the project on March 16, 2020. By that time, as is possible within a SCAOPI application, the city had received two applications to open a registry – one from the zone containing the school and the other from an adjacent zone. If enough residents signed the registry at the next step, the city would call a referendum or abandon its support for the project altogether.

Registries, referendums suspended by province

The process and requirements for a referendum are regulated at the provincial level. On March 20, in the interest of protecting public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, provincial Order 2020-008 indefinitely suspended all registries and referendums. The order also provided options for projects at various stages of the

process. In early April, council designated the expansion as a priority project, within the meaning of the order, and opted to replace the referendum process with a written consultation, as made possible by the provincial order. Ordinarily, the city would communicate this kind of decision by publication via our website, social media and/or the *Westmount Independent*. Conscious that public interest would be focused elsewhere during the pandemic, the city made an extra effort by mailing the public notice to every household in the concerned zones.

The motivation for the decision at the time was simple. All registries and referendums were suspended indefinitely. Even once resumed, the constraints of physical distancing and limitations on public gatherings would make it challenging to safely administer and conduct a registry, and then potentially a referendum. While restrictions may be loosened, we don't anticipate that they will be eliminated altogether in the near term. To be clear, the decision was not made with the presumption of construction starting in the coming months, during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Four types of issues

We received written comments from eight of the 248 households in the two zones. In general, the concerns can be grouped into four issues: impact on traffic, impact of construction, challenge to the democratic process and a fundamental questioning of the need for the expansion. It should be noted that no one expressed an objection to any of the specific zoning variances (i.e. area, site coverage, height, etc.). It is also noteworthy that we did not receive an application to open a registry from residents on Kitchener, immediately adjacent to or facing the construction zone.

We are truly sympathetic to the concerns expressed by the citizens that will be affected by the construction and the increased head count. Please be assured that the impact to traffic was examined in detail and that the applicant is obliged to implement mitigating measures as a condition of approval. As with all major projects, a construction management plan will be required to be submitted and approved in advance.

Construction will always be disruptive, but it always has an end date, and we will insist upon measures that can be implemented to reduce the disturbance to neighbours. Later this month, the city will publish a more detailed response to the collection of letters received from the eight respondents.

On balance, however, we must consider

the benefit to the children and the parents ineligible to sign a registry or participate in a referendum living beyond the two zones, but well within the school's catchment area.

Opportunities and funding to improve public school capacity and facilities do not come along often. The benefit of a well-resourced public school accrues to families with young children and to the community at large. Recently, the catchment area for the school was extended westward from Victoria to now include Claremont. To be sure, Westmount families will benefit, but we should not limit opportunities for those living east of Atwater either.

During these uncertain times, we face unfamiliar challenges. Some will be transformative, others will require some adaptation. In this case, we believe that the latter applies. Council has unanimously agreed that the project fills a need and provides a net benefit to our community and beyond. We hope and trust that you will see the same.

Conrad Peart is the city councillor for District 4, the commissioner of urban planning, permits and architecture, and a member of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The Spotlight is on!

Several times a year, the *Independent* publishes a **Spotlight** on Real Estate edition, including a special pull-out section on real estate and an increased distribution for advertisers by delivering the paper via Canada Post to houses in western downtown and eastern NDG.

With all the uncertainty of the current era, there is a lot that we don't know (including whether it will have a normal page count or not), but our

May 12 Spotlight issue

will go on – with the usual, increased distribution.

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David Price, editor

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2020 Action Plan tabled

Pandemic fuels city's plans to improve accessibility

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the COVID-19 epidemic is expected to change many priorities and the way things have been done, one of those is to improve accessibility to city services, Councillor Marina Brzeski told the *Independent* last week.

“The epidemic has been especially challenging for persons with disabilities and also for caretakers to those who are dependent,” she explained. “Needs have changed and have taken on more significant importance.”

As a result, the coronavirus has inspired the need and “a fresh discussion” by the council in its closed-to-the-public “general committee” sessions for the city’s plan at the end of last year to establish an accessibility committee.

Brzeski working on committee

Brzeski, as commissioner of sustainability and accessibility, has been spearheading the idea of such a committee to be composed of residents and representatives of community groups, city council and the administration.

Its aim is to help the administration improve accessibility and remove obstacles preventing an estimated 4,500 residents

from fully participating in society. This is based on a 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability that does not include persons with temporarily limited mobility or people using strollers, for example.

Three 2020 objectives

Creation of the committee is one of three accessibility objectives for this year identified in the city’s “2020 Action Plan Concerning Persons with Disabilities” tabled by city council April 6. This is an annual report required by the provincial government.

The second objective is creation of the “Imagine Westmount 2040” program listed as “an excellent opportunity” for persons with limited mobility to make their needs known during the city’s revision of its urban planning master plan. This program is now on hold until the lifting of restrictions on public gatherings.

The third action for the year is the installation of an “inclusive play structure” and adapted swing at Prince Albert Park along with re-landscaping of the area to improve wheelchair access. This is still on tap to proceed as planned.

As well, according to Brzeski, some of the objectives reached in 2019 and outlined in the action plan “have come to help us a great deal to better service our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

These include the library’s expanded e-collection such as Kanopy videos and Public Security’s listing of vulnerable persons and their programs to assist seniors (see story April 7, p. 5).

This year, Urban Planning has updated and reformatted the city’s directory of accessible buildings called “Access Westmount Guide” published on the city’s website (see separate story, at left).

Access Guide lists info on some 100 buildings

An updated and reformatted “Access Westmount Guide” for 2020 has been published to provide information on public buildings accessible to persons with disabilities or those pushing a stroller.

The guide includes parking information and a listing of accessibility features such as ramps, numbers of steps to enter, and handrails at some 100 public buildings.

These include pharmacies, health-care services, parks, recreational buildings, municipal buildings, places of worship, schools, government buildings and grocers, caterers and restaurants.

This is a guide initiated many years ago by the city’s Healthy City Project that has been taken over by Urban Planning. It can be viewed at www.westmount.org/community-life/action-plan.

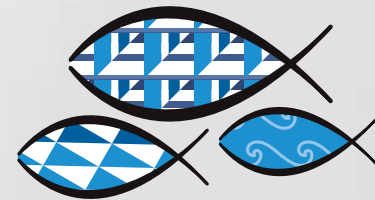
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EDITORIAL

Let the real estate brokers work!

The provincial government is re-opening the economy of Quebec in many ways this month. This rollback of the anti-COVID-19 measures includes the ending of the near-total prohibition of real estate activity, but real estate brokers, and by extension their clients, will still labour under very strict regulations, including the requirement that the transactions in question should be of an urgent nature, meaning for closure before July 31, as well as limitations on presenting new listings. Why?

If we have been able to sell groceries, pharmaceuticals and hardware to each other for the last month and a half in an acceptably sanitary way, why can't we sell houses to each other? And a real estate seller has more control over a possible buyer than a retailer does over crowds of anonymous people in front of his or her shop. Also, a house or condo unit is less crowded than a grocery store, pharmacy or hardware store.

And given that most "non-essential" retailers (i.e. all of those with doors on the street) will be allowed to open this month, the argument is even stronger.

And what's so special about July 31? Does the province want a flurry of activity before that date and then a crash back down to zero, including effects on employment, income taxes and welcome taxes? Just as the province is – in the provincial government's own opinion – shrugging off

this pandemic?

We can imagine all sorts of provisions – by law, self-regulation or negotiation – that could keep things safer for all concerned, including ones to deter the "looky-loos" who like to visit 100 houses before choosing one (or even finally buying nothing).

If the relevant brokers, sellers or buyers are not happy with the safety measures mandated or offered, they could always pass on the whole experience.

Selling or buying a house is an important transaction in people's lives. With almost everyone else getting back their economic freedom, real estate industry participants should too.

David Price is the editor of the Independent. The Independent is primarily a supplier to the real estate industry. No one asked him to write this editorial.

City resuming, cont'd. from p. 1

have to be delayed." The greenhouse project will definitely be behind schedule.

With Public Works blue-collar workers resuming their usual street work and other tasks, their schedules are having to be adjusted. "Things will never be the same."

Though many schools are reopening May 19, he said, "We're still awaiting guidelines on summer activities such as our camps. We suspect they will be operating but with conditions."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAN MOVING VANS
BLOCK SIDEWALKS?

Open letter to city council and 4800 de Maisonneuve building management

On April 29 at 9 am, my wife noticed Meldrum Movers parked in front of the apartment building where we live at 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Since I am in a wheelchair, and the truck was blocking both the city sidewalk and the bicycle path, it was extremely difficult for me to access both the street and the sidewalk to the east. The only access to the sidewalk is from the 4800 de Maisonneuve entrance path, since there is no ramp in front of the building into the building's curved driveway. Although we have pointed this out to Akelius, the property owner, since we moved into the building a couple of years ago, nothing has changed. As a result, I am dependent on being able to access the ends of the driveway in order to access the sidewalk and the street.

Because of this situation, my wife contacted Westmount Public Security to have them have the truck moved out of the way. Since my wife was on the balcony above, she could hear the conversations below very clearly. The security agent arrived about 5 to 10 minutes later and politely told the movers that they had to clear the way. The movers slowly started moving their truck and the agent apologized that he had to do his job. He also asked if they had orange cones in their truck and they said no. He then said that that was okay. He then chatted a bit more with them and the person who was moving out and wished them a good day. He stayed a moment in his vehicle and, once he saw them removing the ramp onto the truck, he left. As you can see from the enclosed photo, after he left, the truck backed up only enough to liberate the bicycle path but remained parked in such a way as to cover the sidewalk thereby making it impossible for pedestrians to use the sidewalk without having to get off into the bicycle path, and making it impossible for a wheelchair or user of a walker to go any further without having to go around thus causing further security and safety issues.

When we saw that the sidewalk was still obstructed, my wife called Westmount Security again to ask that the security agent return to clear the sidewalk. The person she spoke to said that they had done all that they could, and they would not be returning.

As we approach moving season, I would like to know:

• Are moving vans permitted to obstruct the sidewalk in such a way that a wheelchair cannot pass? Note that in this case,



had the van backed up another meter, it would have cleared the sidewalk, and there is clearly enough room to do so.

- If that were not possible, could this van not have parked in the street?
- Does the city not issue permits for such purposes?
- Are there not parking regulations that can be enforced?
- Are the rights of movers and business more important than the rights of mobility-challenged citizens?
- What about implementing the 2020 Action Plan Concerning Persons with Disabilities, Section 4.6, Safety and accessibility of all public spaces?

In this case, the intervention was totally inadequate.

As we approach the moving season, would it not be possible to call upon the Public Safety Department to execute its mandate?

JULIAN LEBENSOLD,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

KEEP REAL TURF IN THE PARK

Nowadays, we use the parks for many outdoor activities to enjoy the beauty of the natural grass and trees, and indirectly to profit from the oxygen produced by the sun's light on grass and trees.

I encourage our city, which is doing its due diligence on artificial turf, to protect the natural fields and work to make a holistic decision that foresees a long-term strategy for Westmount's people, and to support the ideas of our predecessors in reference to parks and to adhere to their vision.

continued on p. 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who was responsible for the Mount Royal Park project, and other famous parks such as the Central Park in NYC and the Emerald Necklace Park in Boston, looked to reproduce the benefits of living in rural and mountain areas in the city.

The cities at that time were concentrating a large number of people and were suffering the adverse effects of industrialization in high-populated areas.

How more worthy it is to enjoy genuine nature to improve our community quality of life.

EDUARDO LOPEZ BANCALARI,
SHERBROOKE ST.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR MASKS, GLOVES

Lately I have noticed blue gloves and masks disposed of on the street, sidewalks and in front of homes! People will go grocery shopping and gladly throw away their gloves and or masks before entering their car.

We are *all* currently living a global pandemic. Strict measures have been undertaken to ensure the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19.

We have enough daily struggles to deal

with. It would be appreciated if people would be more mindful of their behaviour as their reckless attitude of disposing their garbage has an impact on both the environment as well people's well-being.

Perhaps cities need to have more hand-holding measures by installing proper disposal bins in key areas in order to facilitate

the inconvenience of these temporary gloves and masks as well as sensitize the general population.

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.
Editor's note: I agree that people should be more mindful. Here are some photos that I've taken of COVID-19 litter in the past weeks. – DP



From left, on April 25: a glove on Dorchester, looking west towards Greene and one on St. Catherine, looking west towards Clarke; and on May 1, a mask on Prince Albert, looking north towards de Maisonneuve.



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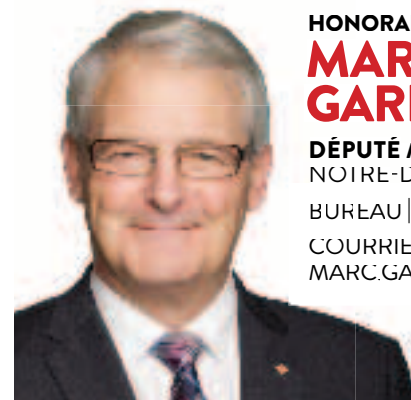
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Protect your own health and the health of others

Decision Fact Sheet

If you have COVID-19 symptoms

Follow the instructions on this poster to help you take the optimal decision for you and your close friends and family.

Always use proper hygienic and preventive measures to avoid contamination.

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow, onto your upper arm or into a paper facial tissue, not your hands
- Keep your environment clean

Adults & children

No fever (less than 38 °C/100.4 °F) but the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Sniffles
- Blocked nose
- Cough

DECISION

I probably have a cold and need to rest.

Adults at risk of severe respiratory symptoms

- I have a fever higher than 38 °C/100.4 °F.
- I am in an at-risk category for severe respiratory complications (senior or person with chronic cardiac and/or pulmonary problems, immune deficiency or diabetes).

DECISION

I stay at home and call the 1 877 644-4545 coronavirus hotline. Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.*

Adults

I have a fever and/or some of the following symptoms:

- Sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion, with or without loss of taste
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme fatigue

Follow instructions.

I am an elderly person with geriatric symptoms (loss of autonomy, falling, confusion onset, agitation or sluggishness, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, etc.).

* Opening hours are subject to change.

Adults or children

I have a fever higher than 38 °C/100.4 °F and one or more of the following:

- Persistent and/or increasing difficulty in breathing
- Somnolence, confusion, disorientation, difficulty staying awake
- Blue lips
- No urine for 12 hours
- Difficulty moving
- Fever (baby less than three months of age)

DECISION

Go to the emergency room immediately.

If help is needed, call 911.



Precautions and care if you have COVID-19 symptoms

Rest

If you have coronavirus symptoms, feel weak and fatigued, rest will help you fight the disease. Limit your contact with others until you have no more symptoms. You can go back to your normal activities when your state of health allows you to.

Drink frequently

Frequent drinking is important because fever causes perspiration and major loss of liquids.

You should drink **at least 1.5 litres of liquids every day**.

You can drink cold or warm liquids, as you prefer. Avoid alcoholic beverages and liquids like coffee or tea that contain caffeine, as well as soft drinks.

Alcohol and caffeine will cause you to urinate more often and increase loss of liquids.

Watch out for these signs of dehydration:

- Extreme thirst
- Dry mouth and tongue
- Infrequent and/or dark urine
- Dizziness, confusion and headaches

Protect your entourage

Do the following to protect your entourage until you have no more symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue, sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion, with or without loss of taste):

- Self-isolate in a bedroom to avoid contaminating others
- Sleep and eat meals alone in your bedroom
- Only use one bathroom
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, ideally with a facial tissue. Wash your hands right after

- If you do not have any facial tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper arm, which are not in contact with people or objects
- Spit into a facial tissue
- Throw away facial tissues into a garbage bag in a trash can with a lid. Keep used tissues away from children
- Do not allow visitors in the house

Keep your environment clean

The coronavirus (COVID-19) can survive for the following lengths of time on objects and surfaces:

- 3 hours on dry surfaces
- 6 days on moist surfaces

Therefore, it is important that you clean counters, sinks, door handles and all other surfaces frequently touched by hands. Cleaning and disinfecting are very efficient ways of eliminating the virus.

Use soap and water or household cleaners to clean surfaces.

Use a 1/9 bleach-water solution or disinfectants. For example, this means 10 ml of bleach to 90 ml of water.

If you are sick, your sheets, towels, cloths and dishware can be washed with those of others in the home using normal detergents.

Seek help

While many of us have the necessary resources to deal with a COVID-19 situation, others may not. If you are concerned, do not hesitate to ask for or accept help. Talk about it with your close family members.

You can also dial 211 for help or ask your local CLSC to connect you with their home care and services resource.

Stay informed

Listen to the radio, watch TV, read the newspaper and/or go to the following government website often:

Québec.ca/coronavirus

The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux will provide instructions for the population on health matters and to obtain care.

Always follow the government's current notices and instructions, since the situation can change.

General information

Services Québec

Coronavirus hotline

1 877 644-4545 (toll free)

Deaf or hard-of-hearing persons

1 800 361-9596 (toll free)

The Self-Care Guide is available at [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus). You can order your English hard copy online.



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

As we prepare to restart certain areas of our City’s economy we will be making some changes to how we have been operating since we have been in lockdown.

As of May 18, the day on which stores with doors that give directly onto the street will reopen, we will be reinstating our parking meters and parking restrictions for street cleaning and permit parking.

There has been a marked increase in pedestrian traffic on our streets and in our parks as weather temperatures warm, and we will continue to add walking corridors across the City, where they are needed. A reminder that physical distancing of 2 metres is all part of our collective effort to reduce the spread of this virus. When you are walking, in particular on the busier streets, we ask that you walk in the same direction as the vehicular traffic.

A critical part of restarting the economy will be the reopening of the residential construction industry and the resumption of the City's infrastructure work. Our Urban Planning Department will reopen and our staff will do as much as they can electronically. Also, our engineering team has been preparing to start our infrastructure projects which are critical to the City.

Please visit our website and social media regularly to see any updates and important information. As we prepare for the economy and primary schools to gradually reopen it is critical to continue to respect physical distancing of 2 metres. Please continue to look out for one another. On behalf of Council, we thank all the frontline workers who are keeping us safe, fed and healthy.

Mayor Christina M. Smith and Council

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MISE À JOUR DE LA MAIRESSE ET DU CONSEIL

Alors que nous nous préparons à redémarrer certains secteurs de l'économie de notre Ville, nous allons apporter quelques changements à la façon dont nous fonctionnons depuis que nous avons été mis en confinement.

À partir du 18 mai, jour de la réouverture des magasins ayant des accès directs à la rue, nous allons rétablir nos parcomètres et les restrictions de stationnement pour le nettoyage des rues et les permis de stationnement.

La circulation piétonnière dans nos rues et dans nos parcs a nettement augmenté avec la hausse des températures. Nous continuerons à ajouter des couloirs de promenade à travers la Ville, là où ils sont nécessaires. Nous rappelons à tous que la distanciation physique de 2 mètres fait partie d'un effort collectif pour réduire la propagation de ce virus. Lorsque vous marchez, en particulier dans les rues les plus fréquentées, nous vous demandons de marcher dans le même sens que la circulation automobile.

La réouverture de l'industrie de la construction résidentielle et la reprise des travaux d'infrastructure de la Ville seront des éléments essentiels de la relance de l'économie. Notre Service de l'aménagement urbain va reprendre ses activités et le personnel sera disponible pour vous servir par voie électronique. De plus, notre équipe d'ingénieurs est prête à lancer nos projets d'infrastructure qui sont essentiels pour la Ville.

Veuillez consulter régulièrement notre site Web et nos médias sociaux pour voir les mises à jour et les informations importantes. Alors que nous nous préparons à la réouverture progressive de l'économie et des écoles primaires, il est essentiel de continuer à respecter une distance physique de 2 mètres. Veuillez continuer à veiller les uns sur les autres. Au nom du Conseil, nous remercions tous les travailleurs de première ligne qui assurent notre sécurité, notre alimentation et notre santé.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Smith".

La mairesse Christina M. Smith et le Conseil

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Focus on COVID-19

Daughter: Neglect was by-product for 90-year-old

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A cry that's being heard more and more these days of persons "neglected" in seniors' residences was brought into focus recently for one Westmounter whose 90-year-old father paid a price for being denied visits or offers of supplemental care from the family.

The COVID-19 lockdown at all public and private nursing homes and residences is now going into its eighth week.

"My father was sent to the hospital by ambulance April 13 when the staff could not deal with his catheter," Anne Renaud said last week.

On his arrival, the emergency room doctor discovered he had an array of medical problems including infections, stage 3 (significant) bedsores and lesions as well as sores on the legs, fever and conjunctivitis.

"We certainly would have noticed the conjunctivitis at least," Renault said, "but neither I nor my brother or sister had been allowed to visit him for a month before he was taken to hospital and still can't while he's there."

Fortunately, she said, he was tested at the hospital and found free of COVID-19,

but was, she contends, a victim of its by-product, neglect.

Compounding problems

Renaud, a prolific author of children's books who works at Westmount city hall as executive assistant to Mayor Christina Smith, said her father's story is an example of the way health care and government measures have compounded the problems in so many senior residences.

While she had voiced complaints in the past about his care and from time to time had been obliged to hire private caregivers, the situation came to a head with the government's decree against the visitation of family members or others.

This coincided with news at the time of staffing problems and three investigations of the CHSLD Herron Residence in Dorval. Its owner, Groupe Katasa, also owns her father's residence, Village Riviera, in Gatineau.

She said she was incensed by the government's response, namely that inspections of seniors' residences had been carried out and there was nothing to report. "All in one or two days?"

Incensed by government comments

She sent emails to Premier François Legault, health minister Danielle McCann and several others, with copies to the media, saying it was obvious the inspections had "failed" since they should have included examining residents such as her father. She received no replies.

Now that her father remains in hospital, and will be there for some time, Renaud said, she has continued a search for new accommodation on his release – possibly where she can visit daily, such as St. Margaret's on Hillside, where she had volunteered earlier for a couple of months.

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Public Security on the front line

Shifting focus to meet new needs, resolving problems

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The COVID-19 rainbow that symbolizes optimism is now emblazoned on the back of patrol vehicles for Westmount's Public Security whose officers are on the frontline of the city's essential services during the pandemic.

"We're trying to resolve every problem while safe-guarding the safety of our officers and keeping them healthy," said department director Greg McBain last week. "Our officers are a young and energetic group with kids and there are worries, but they haven't missed a beat."

In addition to the many regular calls for assistance, some have shifted from parking complaints, for example, to timely needs such as checking up on the needs of isolating seniors, helping deliver groceries,

dispersing groups, monitoring pedestrian safety corridors and putting out "fires."

"We're also looking into what we can do to help the homeless," McBain said. The dispatchers, on duty 24/7, are taking time to speak to people who appear to be lonely and are even redirecting calls for assistance from neighbouring boroughs to appropriate resources.

"We're getting calls for everything now," he said. These include to other city departments.

Patrollers are making frequent inspections of closed-down municipal buildings to check for water leaks, potential fires or related issues and checking on work sites that weren't supposed to be open.

Overnight foot patrols in commercial districts have also been organized to monitor the many closed stores while officers are also talking to janitors of buildings about COVID-19 safety measures and distributing information posters.

When the call was received recently from the local CLSC saying a Westmount family of six was in need of food, "We put out a call and within 24 hours a group of 15 officers had donated a total of \$235 from their own pockets," McBain said. "This was used to purchase non-perishables, which we left at the family's door. It was a gesture of good will."

The parking inspectors, who were temporarily not detailed to enforce metered parking, were called in one or two days a week to help with patrolling and giving verbal warnings as required. With the recent ban on parking on Oakland, residents have been asked to use their driveways. "Today," McBain said April 29, "I was up there and there was only one parked vehicle on the street belonging to a contractor cutting grass."

"There's more and more demand," he explained. With the onset of nicer weather, he said, "we'll need even more patrols in the parks to ensure physical distancing. Every week is different."



The rainbow on a Public Security car May 3 (above). Montreal police have also gotten in on the trend (below). PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON




Man arouses suspicions

A man was seen trying to get into a vehicle that was not his at Redfern and de Maisonneuve April 15 at 12:18 pm, Public Security officials said. He then began walking west carrying a large blue bag and trying another car door.

Observed by public safety officers, he continued through Westmount Park and north on Victoria where he entered an office building. He could not be found inside

but was spotted again outside no longer carrying the bag. It was located in the building but found to contain only clothes.

When the man returned to retrieve the bag, he was intercepted and found to be cooperative. Police were called. He was questioned, identified as homeless, aged 30, not wanted on any warrants and was let go. He was, however, known to police.



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Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

With art venues closed, schools and galleries have created innovative methods to bring art home. The McClure Gallery Virtual Art Hive introduced an online activity associated with Kathleen Vaughan's – currently closed – exhibition. Galerie de Bellefeuille instituted the e-newsletter *Artist of the week*, which included Mr. Brainwash's thought-provoking images.

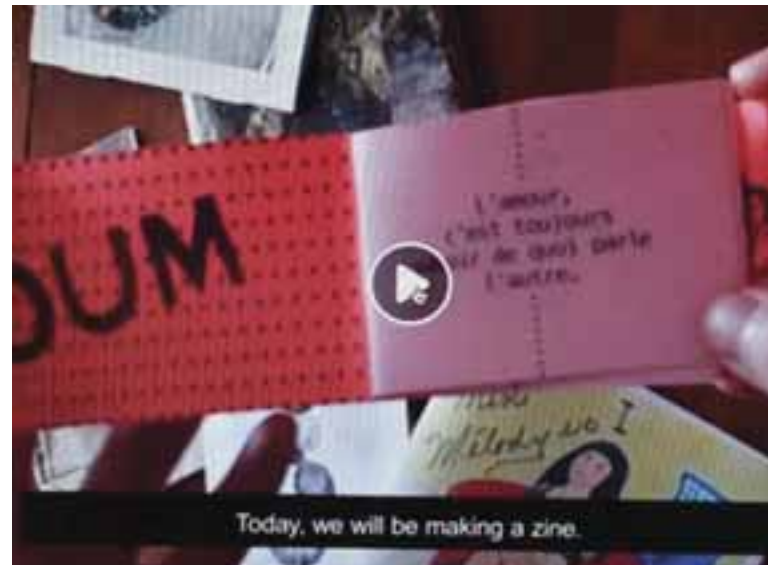
Inspired to create

The Visual Art Centre's first McClure Gallery Virtual Art Hive took place on April 22. At 11 am, the video *How to make a zine* was posted on the gallery's Facebook page. Demonstrated by gallery coordinator Thi-My Truong, participants create a zine – a mini booklet with images and text – at home. They then shared their creations and discussed the activity during a Zoom rendez-vous at 11 am on April 29.

An online adaptation of the Visual Art Centre's free, exhibition-related activity, the McClure Gallery Virtual Art Hive is now scheduled as a weekly event. The goal of the initiative is to create a supportive online art community where participants can “de-stress” and “break isolation.” Open to children and adults, for more information visit the McClure Gallery's Facebook page.

This image-and-word activity mirrors Vaughan's beautiful textile maps *You Are Here* – now posted on the VAC's website. This series of colourful maps illustrate

Vaughan maps, Mr. Brainwash mixes



Making a zine at the Visual Arts Centre's first online Art Hive.

urban green spaces in Montreal and Toronto, as well as locations in Iceland and Norway. Text about the St. Lawrence River appliquéd on “Walk in the Water” adds storytelling to evoke both place and belonging.

However as the map's limited green areas convey the loss of natural habitats, Vaughan's creations are also a warning. Delicate stitchery creates an interesting tactile surface but also communicates nature's fragile vulnerability. Vaughan is an associate professor of Art Education and the Concordia University research chair in socially engaged art and public pedagogies.

Graffiti colour

Mr. Brainwash combines silkscreen

with mixed media to create colourful pop and street art. Well-known images from Superman and Batman comics or Norman Rockwell paintings come alive against a graffiti-like background. In “Einstein,” the physicist carries a sign with the words “Love is the answer.” Charlie Brown's Snoopy is added to the background to create a message that is both humorous and poignant.

In the mixed media and neon creation “Never Give UP,” a boy – hoisted by another – leans over to paint “never, never give up!” Surrounded by multiple images of Mickey Mouse, viewers are reminded of both childhood spunk and lost innocence. With a goal to engage the public in art, the Los Angeles-based Mr. Brainwash – Thierry Guetta – addresses audiences across the globe.



“Never Give UP” by Mr. Brainwash.

Image and words converge

The McClure Gallery Virtual Art Hive activity encourages painters to merge text and visuals. The impact of this creative technique – a story or personal philosophy communicated in text – is illustrated in both Vaughan's textile maps and Mr. Brainwash's playful art. And in this difficult time, images and words combine in videos, photographs, and e-newsletters to bring art home.

Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Delightful young Grizzly is adorable. He comes into open arms with great interest and affection. He is a four-year-old lhasa apso type with dark grey and black undertones to his silky coat, and a cute black button nose. His huge brown eyes stare up intently as he gives all his energy to bonding. Grizzly is at the Montreal SPCA kennel and needs to come home to a loving family as soon as possible. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and treatments, and is neutered and microchipped.

Grizzly's identification number is 44193478 and you can find out more about him by referring to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com. On its adoption

Little Grizzly



page, you can then complete the simple online application for Grizzly's adoption. You will be contacted by a member of the adoption staff shortly for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

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Lysanne

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2019, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

The third-highest house price of last year was registered among sales transacted in November, involving an elegant stone house on Aberdeen Ave. that sold out of the Bombardier family. The \$5,900,000 paid for 21 Aberdeen is dwarfed by the \$9-million price tag for 9 Braeside Place, or the \$7,900,000 paid for 4299 Montrose Ave., but there was only one other price recorded over \$5 million last year, and that was for 16 Bellevue Ave., which sold for \$5,225,000 in February.

Fifteen sales were closed in November, the same number as in October, above average for the month but still leading to

November transfers: another mansion sold

one of the weakest years so far in Westmount's history. None of the one- or two-family dwellings sold for less than \$1 million, the price paid to an estate for 43 Prospect St.

The one duplex sale was 73-75 Hallowell St., at \$1,400,000.

The 15 sales averaged 40 percent higher than their 2017 valuations, which were still in effect as the year came to a close, basically matching the averages for every month since April. Use of these averages offers a \$2,300,000 value for the "typical" Westmount house with a 2017 valuation of \$1,575,722.

Five condominium sales, all apartments, were registered in November, only one of which was above the \$1-million mark. In fact, the highest and lowest November sales involved apartments at 1 Wood Ave.: Apartment 308 went for \$608,000 – the only one which sold for less than valuation – while apartment 211 brought \$1,116,000. When added to eight



21 Aberdeen was the highest price of November at \$5,900,000.




4732 The Boulevard was the lowest mark-up of November, at 17.1 percent.

condo sales in October, the average for the fourth quarter of 2019 (so far) comes to \$882,138 and an average mark-up of 32.5 percent above valuation, not quite as much as for one- and two-family dwellings.

Other sales registered in November included one share-sale of a triplex at 464-68

Victoria Ave., and a commercial building at 344-4B Victoria.

A vacant lot on Belmont Ave. was sold at the same time as 665 Belmont, between corporations that were controlled by the respective seller and buyer of 665 Belmont and at the same time.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This photograph says so much, as it presents the moment when Salina was welcomed at the Montreal SPCA for care and adoption. Coming out of that carrier into the gloved hands of the caregiving staff member was a huge moment of change for her.

Yet she is her beautiful and delicate self, cuddling up to the staff members and veterinary technicians, who ensure that she gets care, comfort and the promise of adoption.

Salina is three years old, a soft white domestic shorthair with caramel striped cap and coat, a dainty pink nose and inquisitive gold eyes staring up at the newness of the cattery.

She is now up to date with her inoculations and treatments, and is spayed and microchipped. Salina is ready to be part of a household in our neighborhood, basking in the sun, waiting in the kitchen for her favourite food, and napping with everyone

Miss Salina



in the family.

Salina's identification number is 41198190 and you can find out more about her by referring to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com. On its adoption page, you can then complete the simple online application for Salina's adoption. You will be contacted by a member of the adoption staff shortly for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in November 2019

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
142 Abbott	Jacques René Delorme	\$1,130,000	\$725,000	55.9%
21 Aberdeen	Claire Bombardier Beaudoin	\$5,900,000	\$4,530,600	30.2%
665 Belmont	Peter O. Velan	\$2,380,800	\$1,800,300	32.2%
4732 The Boulevard	Jordan Michael Geller	\$2,100,000	\$1,793,700	17.1%
71 Columbia	Jason Burhop & Tamra MacMartin	\$1,190,000	\$870,700	36.7%
3 Côte St. Antoine	Roger Evans & Joana Koivisto	\$1,740,000	\$1,097,800	58.5%
580 Côte St. Antoine	Jin-Bak Pyon & Soo-Hyung Lee	\$1,495,000	\$1,183,300	26.3%
57 Holton	Odile Cloutier	\$1,768,000	\$1,346,800	31.3%
566 Lansdowne	Sudettin Gugercinoglu & Melike Yavasca	\$2,182,500	\$1,649,600	32.3%
4357 Montrose	Geraldine Reine Morrow	\$1,100,000	\$834,500	31.8%
423 Mount Pleasant	Adam Benjamin, Albert A. Greenspoon & Barry Lyon Mintz	\$2,485,000	\$1,332,100	86.5%
390 Prince Albert	Argyle Crescent Homes	\$1,730,000	\$968,000	78.7%
43 Prospect	estate Vernon Joseph Russell Bailey	\$1,000,000	\$817,700	22.3%
552 Roslyn	Diane Leclerc	\$1,820,000	\$1,209,900	50.4%
DUPLEXES				
73-75 Hallowell	Mitchell Wasserman	\$1,400,000	\$846,500	65.4%
CONDOMINIUMS				
343 Clarke #4	Anne Vezina	\$755,000	\$588,700	28.2%
200 Lansdowne #304	Gerald T. McCaughey	\$615,000	\$595,900	3.2%
4476 St. Catherine #504	Carlos Martinez	\$849,900	\$537,400	58.2%
1 Wood # 211	9178-4504 Québec Inc.	\$1,116,000	\$985,000	13.3%
1 Wood # 308	Aline Lauzon	\$608,000	\$641,300	-5.2%
SHARE SALES				
464-68 Victoria, 37.16%	Bradley Malmberg & Luis Ramon Lasso Meza	\$690,000	\$425,482 ¹	62.2%
OTHER				
344-44B Victoria	9071-9287 Québec Inc.	\$980,000	\$488,500	100.6%
Lot, Belmont ²	175372 Canada Inc.	\$712,502	\$619,600	15.0%

¹Valuation is 37.16 percent of \$1,145,000. Exclusive use of 468 Victoria Ave.

²Adjacent to 665 Belmont, sold at the same time as 665 Belmont.

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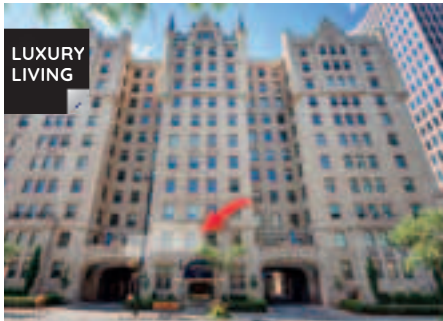
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Fully renovated, open concept, 1bdr + garage 920 ft²



PRIME
LOCATION

WESTMOUNT SQUARE \$740,000
Mountain views, 1bdr + garage



IDEAL
LOCATION

VILLE-MARIE \$575,000
2 bdr unit w/ Western exposure, facing park



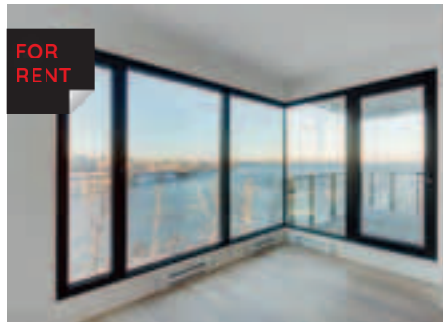
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