

Permanent space is goal: Urban Planning director Larue

City spearheads car-free zone on de Mais. at Atwater

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is to create a new car-free, pedestrian friendly street or public square for year-round use on the stretch of de Maisonneuve running from Atwater three quarters of the way to Wood, between Alexis Nihon Plaza and Dawson College. Animation and seating are some of the ideas.

The plan was expected to be announced at the city council meeting April 6 by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who said last week the city had been negotiating with Montreal's Ville Marie borough, which has agreed to the plan.

"We're looking at ideas for 'place making,'" Lulham explained. The new zone will be open only to users of the bike path and pedestrians.

This portion of the street west of At-

water has already been closed for two years for repair work by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) to the roof membrane of the Atwater Metro station. During this time, overall traffic has been noticeably reduced on de Maisonneuve as far west as Westmount Park.

This is one of the arguments to close off the street at this time, considering the traffic disruption to result from the work by Montreal to replace its primary water conduits on de Maisonneuve from Clarke to Melville.

Most of the new car-free zone lies in Westmount while a short distance from Atwater to the elevated entrance of the Plaza Tower apartment building is in Montreal. The new zone will extend west to just before Wood and the exits of the Dawson daycare and *continued on p. 10*

Garneau delivers new flag to Roslyn



MP Marc Garneau was at Roslyn School March 31 to deliver this brand-new flag to the school. See p. 22 for story. From left: Roslyn principal Joanna Genovezos, Garneau, organizer and parent Suzanne Wexler and Roslyn vice-principal Laura Fundaro.

PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE.



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After last year's COVID hiatus

City's seed lending library ready to return this year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The seeds are just waiting to be sown, watered and watched as they sprout.

This year, the Westmount Public Library's seed lending program will operate in the same way as other loans: being reserved on the library's website and picked up at the door. Last year, the seeds were not

available during the first COVID wave when the library was shut tight.

"We've taken out any seeds that would not be good to plant this year but we still have a good supply," said adult librarian Daniel Miguez, who is in charge of the program.

A form is to be posted on the library's website *continued on p. 13*



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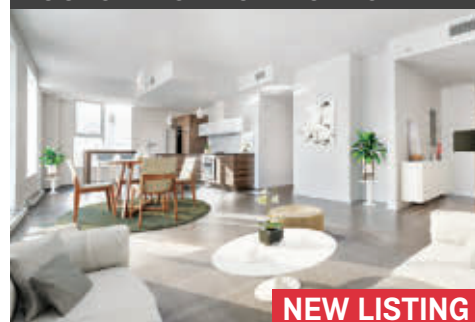
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Internet interrupted in unrelated issue

Blocked drain shuts down power at city hall in heavy rain

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A blocked roof drain during heavy rain Friday, March 19 caused power to be shut down at city hall for the afternoon, weekend and Monday morning. That's when it was deemed safe for electricity to be restored.

Then, on Monday morning, a problem with the server at the IT department interrupted the city's internet service but the two issues were unrelated, according to interim assistant director general Bruce St. Louis.

The blocked drain had been discovered at 11 am on the Friday when someone at city hall heard water running and it was found "pouring out of the sink" used for cleaning that is part way above the lower floor, he said. The cause was traced to a blocked roof drain, which the city plumber unblocked, pushing the blockage into the sewer.

Meanwhile, St. Louis said, water had infiltrated into the electrical room below causing Hydro Westmount to cut power to city hall until it was safe to test the electrical panels on Monday morning once everything had dried out.

He said there was no link between the blocked pipe and the work to install the building's new roof last summer. A camera inserted into the drain did not detect any additional blockage. "The good news was that the floor drain in the electrical room had absorbed most of the water."

The IT outage from 5:30 to 11:45 am was traced to "an internal problem" with the system server.

COVID 'cancels' free tree program for second year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Anyone hoping to plant a fruit tree or another ornamental this spring – courtesy of the city – will have to wait for another year now that the city's annual free tree distribution program has been cancelled for a second consecutive year.

"We're hoping it will be back again next year," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who has been a strong supporter of the program begun in spring 1995.

The reason it was curtailed again this year is to allow Public Works during another pandemic year to maximize its work as front-line workers needed to direct efforts in parks and other green spaces including the planting of large trees in parks and on streets.

Nevertheless, residents are being encouraged to consider purchasing a tree from a nursery to plant on their property. When the program was initiated, a total of 306 trees were reported to have been distributed during the week of June 5, 1995.

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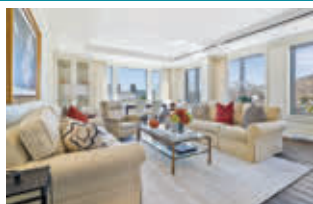
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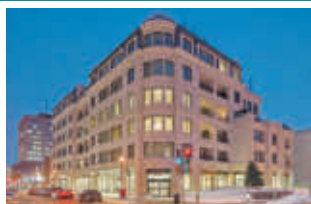
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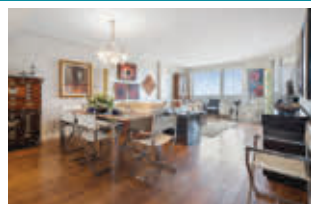
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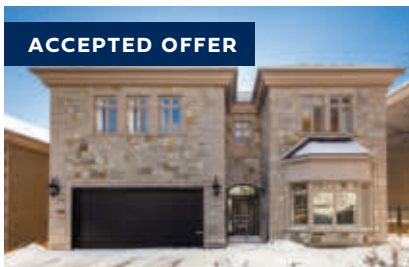
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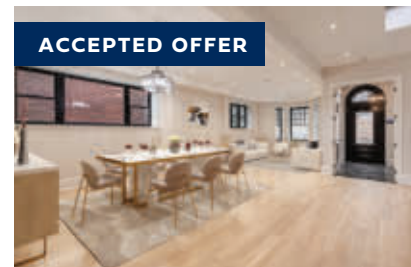
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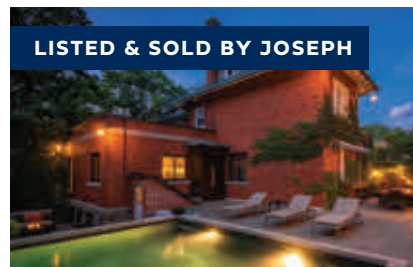
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DON'T RENEW GROUPE MAURICE OCCUPANCY PERMIT, PLEASE

Open petition to the city of Westmount
We, the Westmount residents bordering the newly erected commercial trailer and vehicle parking lot related to the Group Maurice development project taking place in NDG, petition the city of Westmount to not renew the temporary permit granted to the project [on CP land at York St. and St. Catherine] and to up-hold the zoning by-laws governing the use of the land.
We do so for the following reasons:
Property enjoyment: The establishment of a block-long construction trailer park and commercial parking lot has significantly reduced our ability to enjoy our properties, which will only get worse in the summer time when we all lounge, cook and eat in our back yards;
Eye-sore, noise & dust: The block-long construction trailer park is an eye-sore, has created significant dust and has contributed to a dramatic increase in early morning noise and activity in an otherwise quiet residential neighborhood;
Zoning intention: The land is zoned only for residential buildings and/or a hospital, and was never intended to be a construction depot for multiple projects taking place in NDG as is now the case north and south of the tracks – in their entirety, these exceptions have been going on since 2017 – far from temporary;

Prohibited uses: The land actually has specific prohibited uses, included industrial or commercial buildings, the storing of industrial equipment or the establishment of commercial parking lots – with good reason – there are people who live and sleep here;
No legal obligation: The city of Westmount has no legal obligation to provide or renew the six-month temporary permit, and does so at its discretion;
Who does this benefit in Westmount? The city of Westmount has not demonstrated how the city, the neighbourhood or its residents benefit from providing Groupe Maurice an exception to conform to the by-laws governing the land, for a project benefiting a private enterprise, taking place in NDG;
Bad faith & original sin: The Group Maurice Project *originally* cut several large trees to create the space, placed the construction trailers and created a parking lot for commercial purposes illegally, *without any permits from the city of Westmount (for which, we were told by the city, they were fined)*; In the meantime they have *failed to comply* with some of Westmount's requests since November, such as erecting a privacy fence – which they did for their NDG construction site months ago.
Lots of alternatives: There is plenty of alternative space for the trailers and vehicles in the area – this was not necessary – it was just easy for Groupe Maurice, not so for

the residents;
Plenty of time to prepare: The Groupe Maurice has had six months (length of the original temporary permit) to prepare for an alternative.
CP is not exempt: CP, who owns and leased the land, is bound by these same zoning restrictions, except in the case of using equipment for maintenance of its railway – of which this is clearly not.
MARC FELGAR, YORK ST. & 19 OTHER RESIDENTS OF YORK, PRINCE ALBERT AVE. AND ST. CATHERINE ST.

CITY SHOULD SUPPORT, NOT KICK, ATWATER LIBRARY

Regrettably, the city of Westmount's overall allocation to supporting grants for community groups is relatively modest, and has essentially been frozen for the past several years – even as these vital grassroots organizations face unprecedented COVID-related challenges to simply cover their operating costs.
Furthermore, it is evident from the recently announced grants for 2021 that the current city council is choosing "winners" and "losers," with the Atwater Library falling into the latter category. For instance, the Atwater Library's supporting grant has been cut by more than a third over the past several years, from a high of \$39,000 in 2018 to just \$25,560 for 2021.
Dare we hope that the Westmount council will reconsider and supplement its 2021 budget for non-profits in order to make all six Westmount groups winners? The Atwater Library's finances are healthy but lean. With the help of volunteers, we manage on a relatively small budget, which this year amounts to less than \$600,000. So every little bit helps.
However, with respect to financial support from the city of Westmount, the reality is that the recent negative impact on our finances extends well beyond the sharp drop in our supporting grant: this council has also discontinued the previous practice of awarding special grants to offset the hike (of \$6,000/year) in property taxes (of \$14,300/year) resulting from our building upgrade and to offset our construction permit fees (\$5,000 this year).
Rather than rewarding us for conserving and upgrading a beautiful building, which is a National Historic Site and one of the "crown jewels" of Westmount's built heritage, this administration is penalizing us financially.
To put things in context with respect to municipal tax levies and permit fees, let's not forget that our organization is a charity with a mission to conserve our building for the sole benefit of the community, un-

like private property owners who profit from capital gains.
This latest reduction in our supporting grant flies in the face of the fact that Atwater Library delivers programs and services to Westmount residents and groups which the city itself does not provide.
Many Westmounters and Westmount-based organizations such as the Contactivity Centre and Manoir Westmount benefit from our Digital Literacy coaching and help, our Financial Literacy information sessions, our poetry readings, our creative writing and arts activities, and our myriad lectures and discussions – all of which have been successfully delivered online for the past year.
Yet the city of Westmount cuts are significant and do add to our strain in this second year of the COVID pandemic. It rather feels like being kicked when we are down.
RICHARD CONRAD, BOARD MEMBER, ATWATER LIBRARY

TWO TROUBLING INCIDENTS, ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION

On February 14 with my bicycle laden with groceries, I entered the Place d'Armes Metro station to travel to Vendôme. I had a mask on and entered the last door of the first carriage [as required by the Metro's front-car bike rule]. As the carriage was fairly crowded, a passenger offered me his seat.
At the same time, six officers came in from the second carriage. One said to me, "What are you doing here?"
"I am going to sit down," I said.
"Go to the front to sit," he said.
"No, I cannot turn around [with my bicycle]. There are too many passengers. I am going to sit here."
"I said: 'Go to the front of the carriage!'" said the officer.
When I asked him "May I have your identity number?" he grabbed my bike and exited. I had to follow.
On the platform, there was a shouting match. When he said, "Why are you shouting? Are you sick? Do you want me to take you to hospital?" I decided to remain silent.
Inspector Paquette continued his violent monologue. The other five officers just stood around, watching, listening.
When the next train arrived, I entered the last door of the first carriage with my bike, sat on the same seat and said, "Come in and sit next to me." They just stared as the door closed.
On arrival home, I wrote to complain to the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) and received a reply the next day informing me that someone would contact me within

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Letters to the Editor

15 days.

On March 2, Eric Levesque called to ask what happened on February 14. After recounting the incident, I told him I wanted an apology from Inspector Paquette.

“I will try to meet him and call you back on Friday the 12th.” Eric Levesque never did.

Two weeks ago on a Sunday morning, I was exercising with a long pole on the field in front of Westmount Park School. I noticed two police cars circling around along the bike path, St. Catherine and Melville more than once. As I was about to leave, six of them came across the field to me and one said, “Drop your pole.”

With six policemen armed with batons and possibly guns* standing before me, I was stunned. I dropped my pole and asked him, “Why? I am just exercising here.”

He said something about a home invasion. I told him I had not seen anyone there and asked again, “Why do you ask me?”

He did not answer and they all left. I asked a friend who lives in the same Melville block facing the field and she said, “I would know if there was a burglary.”

I can find no other explanation for being treated this way by the authorities in the above incidents except racial profiling. I have never experienced racism since I settled here many years ago. Are the recent anti-Asian events in the US ever so gently filtering into Canada?

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

*Editor's note: It is my understanding that Montreal police officers carry guns. – DP.

PAUSE FULFORD CLOSING, CONSULT ON SUSTAINING IT

Open letter to Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

We are writing to you with an urgent plea to help the families and community of Fulford Residence [on Guy St. in downtown Montreal]. As you are aware, Fulford, an elder care home in Montreal with a direct association to the Anglican Church, is scheduled to soon close. The devastating result is that our loved ones, many living with complex care needs, are being displaced from their homes just as the third wave of the global pandemic takes hold.

In a letter to citizens concerned about the closing of Fulford you wrote, “I trust that your priority at all times – whether you like the outcome or not – will be the good of the residents and staff.” We assure you the well-being of our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and friends – as well as their caregivers – is our only concern.

In fact, in just a few short weeks, a broad and inspiring coalition of community advocates, political representatives, relevant stakeholders, business leaders and



This very large puddle on the roof of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) reminded reader Adriana Grugel-Park, of “Lake Shakespeare,” which lies to its northeast (see March 23, p. 8). “This mallard couple were taking advantage of the new shoots popping up on the green above the sports complex on March 26,” wrote Grugel-Park.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. GRUGEL-PARK.

concerned citizens have joined with families in calling for the board of directors of Fulford – on which [Montreal] Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson serves as president – to pause the closing to allow for a wide public consultation and thorough review of viable alternatives to sustain the residence. Several have written the board, including:

- Jennifer Maccarone, MNA for Westmount–St. Louis, who noted that she is “deeply concerned regarding the current position of the board to close Fulford Residence within six months time.”
- The Quebec Community Groups Network urged the board “to allow those who have expressed their concern to roll up their sleeves and contribute to a plan that can sustain Fulford through the current crisis and into the future.”
- The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network explained “the elderly and in some cases frail women who presently live there will have their lives disrupted in the midst of our present pandemic.”
- The Seniors Action Network warned that “being displaced so soon after suffering the trauma of a COVID-19 outbreak in their home, that took the lives of many of their friends, would be revisiting significant trauma on a very vulnerable group of people.”
- The English-Speaking Catholic Council argued “every attempt should be made to bolster, strengthen, and preserve this unique institution.”

Consistent with your advice, the families also wrote the board, thanking members for their service, asking for additional information underpinning the decision to close the residence, and laying

out the compelling evidence in favour of preserving Fulford as a model of considered and compassionate long-term care.

We were deeply disappointed to be met only by a minimal response from the bishop and board vice-president David McEntyre urging families to “please allow the management team to continue their care without interference.” Potential solutions to the challenges confronting the home – from capacity issues to funding concerns – cannot be fully explored without the board’s cooperation.

Reverend Nicholls, time is running out. It is increasingly clear, particularly in the current pandemic environment, that comparable care options available to our loved ones if Fulford closes are negligible. The stress all our family members are feeling right now is palpable and rising. It is not an exaggeration to say Fulford’s unexpected closure could result in the premature death of some of our loved ones.

Yet, we are entering the season of rebirth. Our families are heartened by the community’s love and commitment to Fulford. Hope springs anew. The Church now has within its domain the power to breathe life into this cherished but threatened institution by making its support equally clear. As primate, we beseech you to act.

Let us work together to preserve Fulford. *Carpe diem.*

CHRISTOPHER HOLCROFT, KAREN SCALE, ROBIN BLACK, BOB ARCHELL, DAVE RAMSAY, SARAH ASCH, RICHARD ASCH, MARY JANE RAMSAY, HEATHER RAMSAY, DANE MACMILLAN, PAMELA MCGOVERN, DOUG ARCHELL, RON ARCHELL, JOHN ARCHELL, ALYSSA ARCHELL, BRYAN ARCHELL, GAIL BASCOMBE, SCOTT SULLIVAN, PATRICIA HEWAT, JANE

ARNOT KAVANAGH, PAUL DEUTSCHMAN, YVONNE DEUTSCHMAN, ANTHONY DEUTSCHMAN AND JOAN CLARK

PLEASE FILL UP YOUR SANITIZERS

I just came back from making a deposit at BMO (corner of Grosvenor and Sherbrooke). Although I had not touched anything since leaving home, noting the bottle of hand sanitizer at the ATM, I thought it would be prudent to use it, both before and after using the keypad. Unfortunately, I only noticed that there was nothing left in the bottle after much handling of it, i.e. pressing the pump a few times, and turning it upside down. Well, I did make my deposit and, upon reaching home, washed my hands thoroughly. So good for the bank for providing sanitizer, but I think someone need to be on “supplies.” Note I was at the bank at 8:30 am. I don’t think it was emptied overnight.

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GUEST COLUMN

Stowe misses its Montrealers

The land border between the United States and Canada is closed because of COVID-19 restrictions and Stowe, Vermont is not the same. The most avid skiers in Stowe are from Montreal. There is not a trail that they can't ski, not a weekend they miss. Come rain or snow or ice or temperatures 20 degrees below zero, you could always count on them being at the mountain. They added personality, life, and zest to the village. My friends from the north love a good laugh and know how to enjoy life. Without them Stowe has lost its sparkle.

Harrowing drives

The Montrealers usually have second homes near the mountain and spend winter weekends skiing despite harrowing drives in blinding snow storms to get there. After they safely arrive, they tell dramatic stories about their trips. These Canadians are smart and hardworking and live in a city with opportunities. They are a group of business men, doctors, and lawyers. Most, if not all, of them graduated from McGill University. They understand

the importance of a professional career and are very busy during the week earning a living.

The parents of my Montreal friends grew up in the same section of the city, many in crowded cold-water flats. They had the drive and initiative to get out. They are a close-knit group and maintain life-long friendships. The Canadians my age went to the same elementary schools and at university belonged to the same fraternity. I feel fortunate to know and be friendly with them.

A dear Montreal friend was at the lift every morning after he retired with a smile and welcoming hello. When I was learning to snowboard and on a trail far beyond my ability, frozen with fear, he skied up to me and asked me how I was. My response was, "How does it look?" Later, we had a good laugh when I was safely at the bottom.

One morning, I rode the chairlift with him and his eight-year-old grandson. As we got off the lift, the child said, "It was a pleasure to meet you. I hope you have a very nice day." Like his grandfather, he had charm.

Feeding site created by animals or people?

These tires in the bushes of King George (Murray) Park near Côte St. Antoine and Strathcona are full of food for some creatures, although it is not clear if the pine cones were put there by the animals themselves or people. The *Independent* assumes that the tires were man made, but were they put there for this purpose or just cast away?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



A view of Stowe, Vermont.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK VANDENBERG/STOWE AREA ASSOCIATION, AS REQUESTED BY THE INDEPENDENT.

There was the lovely Montreal lady, a former Israeli soldier, who on the last day of ski season was caught on a closed trail. When the patroller reached for her ski pass, she gave him a slug. That was the end of that.

Skiing plus 'real exercise'

Her husband, who came in second in a Hawaiian Iron Man triathlon, would always say after a morning of skiing, "Now I'll get some real exercise," and head to his home gym.

Another Montrealer who skied perfectly, gave me a detailed description of when he found his father injured on a double-black-diamond trail with his shoulder torn open. He invited me to join his friends for a lunch of homemade sandwiches prepared by his fully recovered father.

How could I not mention a Montreal acquaintance who, after tasting the macaroni

he bought in the cafeteria, realized it was cold and returned it? Then he watched in disbelief as the server dumped the food back in the kettle. He talked about it for weeks.

A decades-long physician friend was at the mountain most Saturdays and Sundays at 7 am no matter how cold, despite being over 90 and working full time.

I will never have a better friend than the one who rescued me from disasters more than once. No one on the mountain could ski the bumps better than this man, all 250 pounds of him.

The Montrealers whom I know are a smart, ambitious and hardworking group. They have a zest for living and love a good time. They must miss Stowe and all their friends. The village is not the same. It has lost its pizzazz.

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Police Report

Fraudsters may be using Westmount addresses as cash drops

By Martin C. Barry

Investigators at Station 12 were called upon in recent weeks to follow leads from police in Ontario and Alberta after investigations in those regions suggested fraud perpetrators were operating out of Westmount.

In the first incident, a woman from Ottawa complained to the police there that she received a phone call from someone saying that her son was in danger and that she needed to mail \$9,000 in cash to an address on Westmount Ave. near Lansdowne.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the woman complied with the order and went immediately to a UPS Store branch to arrange to ship the package of cash to the address.

However, the woman’s husband recognized a fraud operation and contacted the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) as well as the UPS Store. An OPS investigator also contacted UPS and asked them not to deliver the package. Although the courier company agreed, the package had already been sent.

The OPS investigator contacted the

Montreal police and two officers from Station 12 were sent to the Westmount Ave. address, which was seen to be vacant.

However, they found the envelope protruding from the front door’s mail delivery slot. “They verified and there was cash inside the envelope,” Pimentel said, adding that everything was recovered.

Cash sent #2

In another recent fraud-related incident involving Westmount, Station 12 investigators were asked to intervene after being contacted by police in Alberta regarding a woman who had been contacted by phone by a person posing as an RCMP official, while attempting to perpetrate what has become known as “grandparent” fraud.

As many people know by now, perpetrators of this scam try to convince victims that their grandchild or other young relative has fallen into some kind of peril, often legal, and a large sum of money must be sent in order to secure their release.

In this case, a message left in the woman’s voice mail on March 25 instructed her to send \$10,500 in cash via courier

to an address near the corner of Westmount Ave. and Murray Hill in Westmount.

Pimentel was unable to say whether this house also turned out to be vacant. However, according to the police report, someone received the envelope at the house.

Anti-restriction march

Several hundred demonstrators protesting against the province’s pandemic restrictions walked peacefully along Sherbrooke St. through part of Westmount on the morning of March 27 under the watchful eye of bike patrollers from the Montreal police department (see March 30, p. 18 for photos).

After reaching Melville Ave., the protesters turned south to St. Catherine St. where they continued walking west.

“There were a few hundred people,” said Pimentel, noting that the protesters were monitored by police patrollers from Station 20 downtown as that is where the march started.

According to Pimentel, five tickets were issued to protest participants, although he

didn’t know the nature of the offenses as the citations were issued by Station 20 officers.

COVID enforcement

As in past weeks, police enforcement of COVID-19 sanitary rules saw officers visiting homes in Westmount last week to check for quarantine rule adherence, while issuing at least one ticket to an individual who broke the 9:30 pm to 5 am curfew.

On March 31 around 11 pm, a man out walking along St. Catherine St. near Atwater Ave. was issued a \$1,550 ticket for being in a public place rather than at home during the curfew.

On April 1, police from Station 12 visited a home on Arlington near Sherbrooke to verify whether a person who claimed to be living there was following a mandatory 14-day quarantine period after returning from a trip outside Canada.

The officers found that the person in question did not in fact reside there, based on information from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). As a result, an investigation has been opened.

Car-free zone, cont’d. from p. 1

Alexis Nihon parking.

“Our goal is to have it ready in June-July,” said Urban Planning director Michel Larue. “What we are exploring right now is whether there will be café-terrasses and some type of attraction such as we see in many public places around the world.”

While the intent is to make the closure permanent, for now it’s tentative, he explained. If permanent, “the agreement with Montreal would have to be on paper. There are also discussions to have with Alexis Nihon and Dawson College.”

Creation of the public space had been proposed at the city council meeting June 1 last year by Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists as a traffic reduction method (see story June 9, 2020, p. 16).

The idea had been met by an enthusiastic response from Mayor Christina Smith who said at the time it was “a great idea, worthy of exploring further.” She added how some good things, such as “how we use public spaces,” were emerging through the pandemic need for social distancing. Thousands of students cross de Maisonneuve between Dawson and Alexis Nihon, she noted.

Lulham also explained the idea had been under consideration as part of a “way-finding” practice to bring people from the Metro station to Greene Ave. as part of the city’s revitalization of commercial sectors.



de Maisonneuve looking east from Wood Ave. April 2. The car-free area is planned for where the construction is right now.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Supervisory squirrel



This squirrel was photographed March 31 at Westmount's conservatory/greenhouse, which is located between Victoria Hall and the Westmount Public Library. It is under renovations (see February 23, p. 1).

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARC DAGENAIS.

Public Security launches enforcement campaign on leaf blowers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Coinciding with the disappearance of snow and the arrival of April 1, Westmount's leaf blower regulations are now in effect until May 1. This allows for the use of blowers between 8 am and 4 pm from Monday through Saturday.

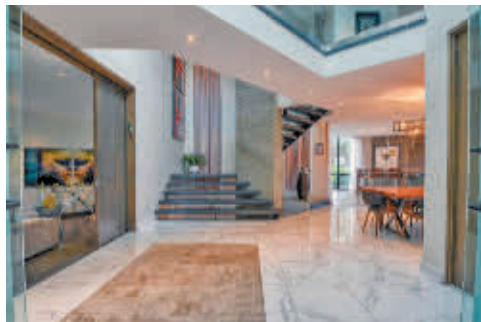
Anyone noticing leaf blowers in use during prohibited hours is advised to call Public Security, department director Greg McBain said last week. These times of non-use are Sunday and statutory holidays.

"We're starting a campaign with gardening contractors to check that their permits are in order and that their blowers meet certification standards," he said. Of-

ficers will also be checking that all garden debris from the clean-up is removed from sidewalks and streets.

Initial plans by the city to ban the use of gasoline-fired blowers were retracted in 2018 at the request of the landscape contractors and some residents until the quieter, more environmentally friendly electric equipment becomes more readily available on the market (see story March 6, 2018, p. 11).

Some residents were concerned by increased rates from contractors while Mayor Christina Smith said a ban on the gasoline-powered blowers would be more effective if carried out along with Montreal and/or other island municipalities.



Bunny Berke

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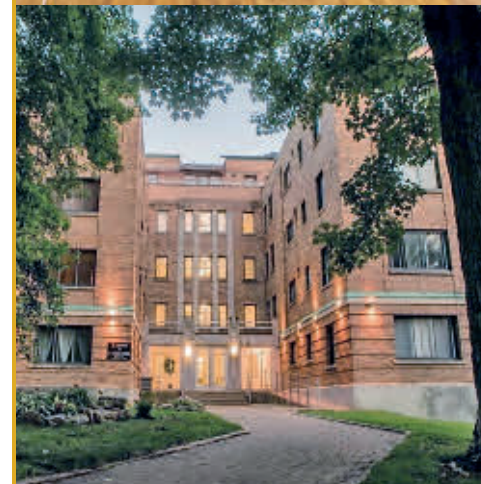
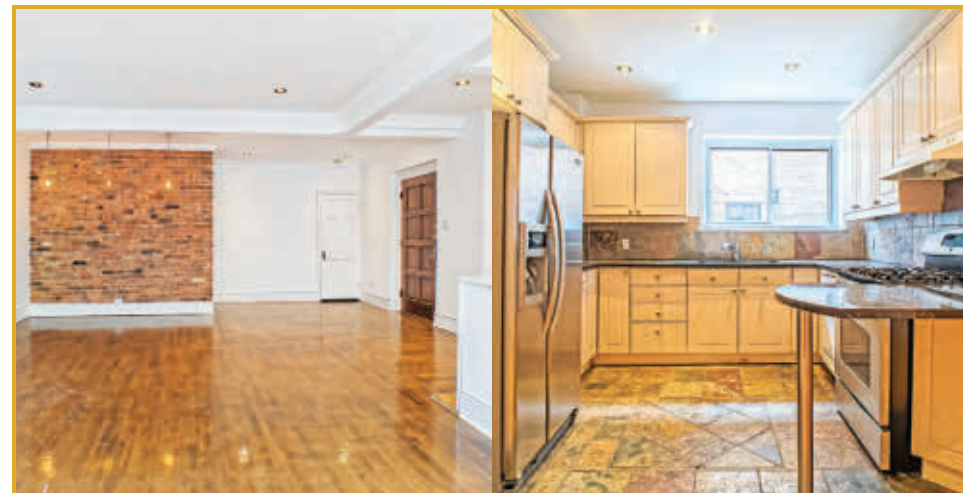
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Provincial law: Cities not liable for work of contractors

Bonardelli upset over muddy water infiltration in basement

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The experience of one Mount Pleasant resident whose basement was infiltrated by muddy water in a severe rain storm last August has brought into focus a provincial law that states a city is not responsible for the work of its contractors.



The exterior trench that led to the home.

In this case, the city contractor had dug a trench leading to the front of Robert Bonardelli's house at the foot of the hill while replacing the city's portion of lead water entries on the street. The rain had poured down the hill into the trench beside a lane that left the water with "nowhere to go but into my basement," he contends.

Now, seven months later, Bonardelli maintains that of the \$35,000 total loss, his insurance company is paying some \$25,000 of the total damage and he's "stuck" paying the \$10,000 deductible as well as the loss of a good claim record.

"And what bothers me most," he said last week, "was that there was nothing wrong with my house until all of a sudden I had mud in my basement from the main drain."

He claims that during the street work, some damage must have occurred to "a pipe" that was covered over the next day when the trench was filled in.

He said his own lead water-entry pipe leading from the city's portion had been replaced a few years ago.

While Bonardelli filed an initial claim with the city within the prescription period, it was refused, and he was directed to the

contractor and provided with ongoing assistance.

According to Westmount city clerk Andrew Brownstein, quoting Quebec's Cities and Towns Act: "The municipality is not liable for damage caused through the fault of a contractor to whom building, rebuilding or maintenance work has been entrusted, for the entire duration of such work."

So, what does a resident do in such a case?

After making a claim with the city within 15 days, Brownstein said, the city tries to guide an affected resident through the procedure to follow as well as supplying the name and coordinates of the contractor, plus follow-up assistance.

Whatever the outcome from a resident's own insurer regarding deductibility and premium would depend on the type of policy one may have, Brownstein explains.

Bonardelli said he had had many people through his house inspecting the valves and pipes and even checking for a possible crack in the foundation and "all were found in order."

The matter, he said, is now in lawyers' hands.



The drain and floor at the Mount Pleasant basement.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT BONARDELLI.

The issue brings to mind a similar experience when the city had contracted out repaving work on Prince Albert north of Sherbrooke in 2016. After that work, residents making claims to the city had been told they had to deal directly with the contractor regarding damage caused to their yard, which had taken a long time to get cleaned up.

At that time, it had taken some by surprise since the city had not been known to apply the Cities and Towns Act article exempting the city from a contractor's damage.

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Long way from Papineau for this lonesome traveller



This compost bin from Papineau Ave. in the East End was seen on York St. March 30, left, and has been floating around that neighbourhood for a while, including hanging out with yet another Christmas tree on March 26, right. (See March 23, p. RE-4 and March 16, p. 20 for two other long-haul Christmas trees.) Perhaps this compost bin had international travel plans that have been derailed by COVID restrictions and has opted to see the province via a “stay-cation”?

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT



Library, cont'd. from p. 1

April 6 that library members can use for ordering their seeds for pick-up within a week. Under the program, library members who borrow and grow the seeds are asked to replenish them by harvesting seeds from the current year's plants to rebuild the seed stock.

The seed lending program, which required the initial purchase of seeds, was launched with proceeds from the city's perennial exchange and sale in 2016. The collection is augmented annually from the harvested seeds (see story May 10, 2010, p. 7).

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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 as part of a massive effort to prevent serious complications and deaths related to COVID-19, and stop the virus from spreading. Through vaccination, we hope to protect our healthcare system and allow things to return to normal.

A VACCINATION OVERVIEW

Why get vaccinated at all?

There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

How effective is vaccination?

Vaccination is one of medicine's greatest success stories and the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. That said, as with any medication, no vaccine is 100% effective. The efficacy of a vaccine depends on several factors, including:

- The age of the person being vaccinated
- Their physical condition and/or state of health, such as a weakened immune system

THE IMPACT OF VACCINES AT A GLANCE



- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccination helps **prevent over 2 million deaths** every year, worldwide.
- Since the introduction of vaccination programs in Canada in 1920, **polio has been wiped out** across the country and several other illnesses (such as **diphtheria**, **tetanus** and **rubella**) have virtually disappeared.
- **Smallpox** has been **eradicated** throughout the world.
- The main bacteria responsible for **bacterial meningitis** in children—Haemophilus influenzae type B—has become **much rarer**.
- **Hepatitis B** has for all intents and purposes **disappeared** in young people, due to their having been vaccinated in childhood.



**COVID-19
Vaccination
operation**

COVID-19 VACCINES

Are the vaccines safe?

Definitely. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested for quality and efficacy on a large scale and passed all necessary analysis before being approved for public use.

All required steps in the vaccine approval process were stringently followed, some simultaneously, which explains why the process went so fast. Health Canada always conducts an extensive investigation of vaccines before approving and releasing them, paying particular attention to evaluating their safety and efficacy.

Who should be vaccinated against COVID-19?

We aim to vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. However, stocks are limited for now, which is why people from groups with a higher risk of developing complications if they are infected will be vaccinated first.

Can we stop applying sanitary measures once the vaccine has been administered?

No. Several months will have to go by before a sufficient percentage of the population is vaccinated and protected. The beginning of the vaccination campaign does not signal the end of the need for health measures. Two-metre physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and frequent hand-washing are all important habits to maintain until the public health authorities say otherwise.

On what basis are priority groups determined?

The vaccine will first be given to people who are at higher risk of developing complications or dying from COVID-19, in particular vulnerable individuals and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in a CHSLD, healthcare providers who work with them, people who live in private seniors' homes, and people 70 years of age and older.

As vaccine availability increases in Canada, more groups will be added to the list.

Order of priority for COVID-19 vaccination

- 1** Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs).
- 2** Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users.
- 3** Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults.
- 4** Isolated and remote communities.
- 5** Everyone at least 80 years of age.
- 6** People aged 70–79.
- 7** People aged 60–69.
- 8** Adults under the age of 60 with a chronic disease or health issue that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- 9** Adults under the age of 60 with no chronic disease or healthcare issues that increase the risk of complications but who provide essential services and have contact with users.
- 10** Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age.

Can I catch COVID-19 even after I get vaccinated?

The vaccines used can't cause COVID-19 because they don't contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that's responsible for the disease. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or in the 14 days following it could still develop COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

No. Vaccination is not mandatory here in Québec. However, COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Is vaccination free of charge?

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**. It is only administered under the Québec Immunization Program and is not available from private sources.

Do I need to be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

YES. Vaccination is indicated for everyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to ensure their long-term protection.

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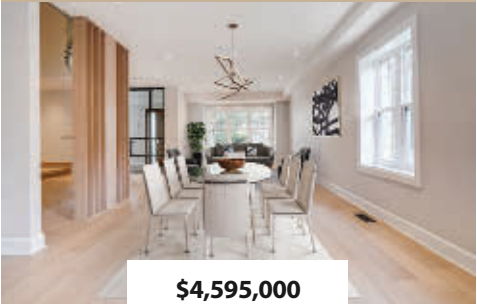
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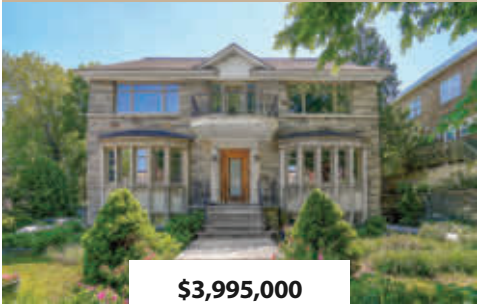
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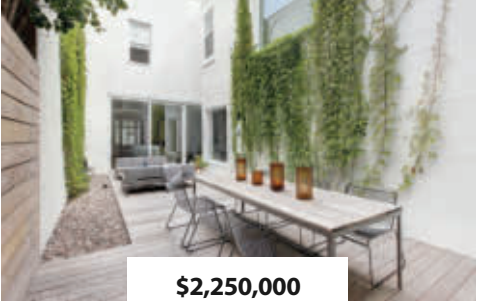
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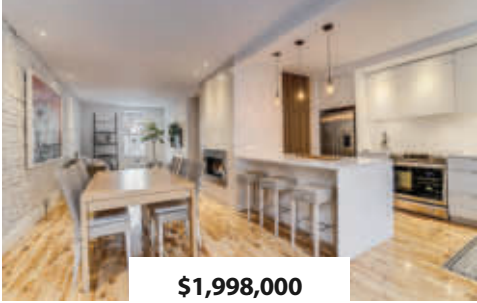
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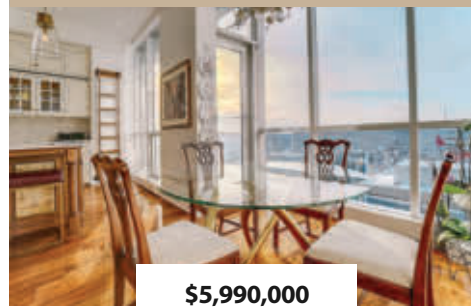
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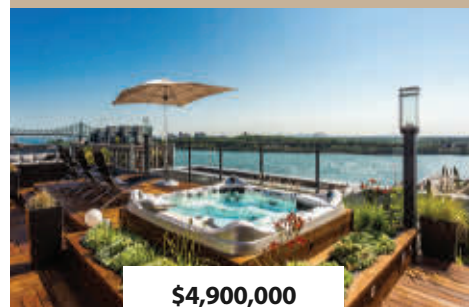
PANORAMIC VIEWS | LARGE PRIVATE TERRACE



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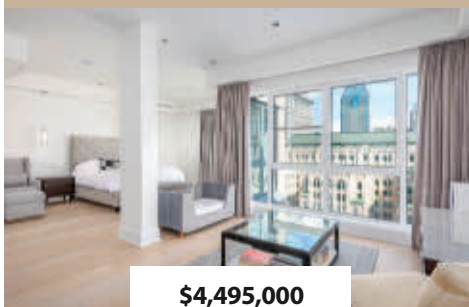
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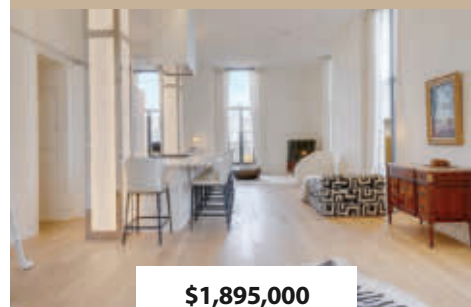
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in September 2020

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
71 Arlington	Justin Desmarais-Himes	\$1,500,000	\$1,204,100	24.6%
4 Murray	Huguette Bombardier	\$5,765,000	\$5,532,200	4.2%
332 Redfern	Stephen Raicek & Lynn Herzeg	\$3,175,000	\$2,907,700	9.2%
765 Upper Belmont	René Caissie & Hillary Goddard	\$2,800,000	\$2,206,100	26.9%
4880 Westmount Ave.	Ian L Edwards & Karen M. Shaw Edwards	\$2,750,000	\$2,369,100	16.1%
DUPLEXES				
427 Elm	estate Joanne Desrosiers	\$1,615,000	\$1,078,400	49.8%
CONDOMINIUMS				
215 Redfern #306	Jason Vouriot & Christina Shereck	\$1,115,000	\$1,027,700	8.5%
215 Redfern #111	Sydney Nesbit	\$2,025,000	\$1,353,200	49.6%
1 Wood #1601	Norman Wolfe	\$2,200,000	\$1,961,800	12.1%
446 Grosvenor	Jane Markus	\$1,070,000	\$806,400	32.7%
4860 St. Catherine	Inna Babina	\$1,102,500	\$717,000	53.8%
OTHER				
1302-04 Greene	Corporation Financière Phildan Inc.	\$5,576,288	\$5,015,500	11.2%


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September transfers: Another \$5M-plus sale



4 Murray, at Côte St. Antoine on March 30.

percent, indicating a value for the “typical” Westmount house at that point of \$2,181,696; for the last two months the adjusted average goes above \$2.2 million.

Condos

Westmount’s condominium market was busier in the third quarter of 2020 than it had been in either of the previous quarters, with 11 sales compared to only four in the second quarter and nine in the first quarter, but in fact the 11 third-quarter sales compares to 18 in the same period in 2019 and 23 in 2018.

Prices were strong: in September none of the five sales registered had prices below \$1 million, though the prices in July and August ranged from \$575,000 to exactly \$1 million. The average condo in the third quarter was selling at 29 percent above the tax assessment, suggesting that the market is strengthening in that field, as well.

The non-residential sale of note in last Septem- *continued on p. 20*

The Old Post Office building at Greene and de Maisonneuve on March 31.
It sold for \$5.6 million



Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in September 2020, gleaned from non-city sources. In December 2020, the Independent asked for a list of sales covering this period from the city of Westmount, but had not received a reply by press time. For this reason, more sales from September 2020 may be discovered in the future and covered in subsequent issues. A list of sales found by us can be found on p. 18.

The huge mansion at the corner of Murray Ave. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. with its prominent greenhouse sold last September from a member of the Bombardier family for \$5,765,000, the highest price in the month but only four percent above municipal valuation. That marks the third consecutive month in which at least one Westmount house has sold over \$5 million; July had two such sales.

Of the six one- and two-family sales in September, four were for prices over \$2 million, pushing the average sale price to a stunning \$2,934,167, the highest one-month average since September 2019, when six sales averaged \$3,045,000 thanks mainly to the \$9-million sale of 9 Braeside Place.

Transfers registered last September included 71 Arlington Ave., the lowest priced residential sale at \$1,500,000, just lower than the \$1,615,000 paid out for 427 Elm Ave., the only duplex sold in the month. That attached stonefront building sold for 50 percent above its municipal valuation, the highest mark-up of the month. The 4 Murray Ave. sale was only one of two to sell for less than a 10-percent mark-up.

The six sales sold for an average 15.1 percent mark-up over valuation, almost the same average as in August and actually higher than in July. The first nine months of 2020 brought an average mark-up of 12.7

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

My heart breaks for this beautiful long-haired tortoiseshell beauty, with such a sad name. “Mamie Ruelle” translates loosely to “Mother from the Laneway.”

Mamie was brought in to the Montreal SPCA cattery by a Good Samaritan, in need of care from her surviving conditions on the street. She has adapted very well to foster care, where her foster family discovered that she was deaf even though she

Mamie Ruelle comes in from the cold

expresses herself quite well!

Mamie is affectionate and sweet, a delightful green-eyed lovebug in waiting for an adult family as an only-pet for the moment, in order to cherish her as she deserves so much.

She is a senior Mamie at 12 years of age, healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please refer to her identification number A46639259 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Cuts is a typical “watermelon” bulldoggette, a bit shy at the beginning but happy as can be if she knows you. At that point, she has to be cuddled and sticks to her humans like glue.

She is at the Montreal SPCA in foster care at the moment, with her foster family reporting that she is the typical rescue who was nervous at the beginning and in need of a nice constant home framework to gain trust and routine.

At six years of age, she has a few medical follow-ups from her arrival at the shelter, is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please

Cuts like glue

refer to her identification number 43660390 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



GUEST COLUMN

By CATHERINE DUMOUCHEL

Dear neighbours, dear dog lovers,
It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Bobby Chou. As you knew, my dog had been abused for many years before joining my family. He captured your hearts and nothing can soothe mine. I wanted to honour his memory by sharing this short testimony.

My Bobby Chou, my baby chou. You passed away on March 22, leaving a big hole in my life. I didn't want to leave you.

I wasn't ready. I cuddled your beautiful head for a long time before leaving the veterinary clinic and wrapped you up in your favourite blanket.

When I got home, I realized that everything in my life was about you. All your beds, your bandana drawers, your cookie drawers, all your bone and toy baskets, your blankets, all your coats and sweaters so you wouldn't get cold.

You deserved all of this, my baby. You were the most precious thing in the world to me.

RIP Bobby Chou

I will always remember August 9, 2016 when you came into my life, with your funny ears, your anxiety and your eyes, the sweetest I had ever seen. We were your eighth family and the last for life.

You came at the right time, I needed you and I think you needed me. You made me a better person. A more responsible, caring, loving, devoted person. You were my priority, my baby dog. And you became the perfect companion.

Funny, so sweet, loving, my little glue pot. My best friend. The most amazing dog ever.

I spent my first night without you waking up to give you your blanket. A first morning without being able to hug you and wish you good morning. A day where I won't hear you “woo-woo” because you want to eat. A day when I won't sing those songs that make you feel better. A day when you don't chase Greta the cat. A day when you won't undo the bed. A day when you won't follow me around the house. A day when you won't discipline your young friends at the dog park. A day without you making me laugh. A day without your established routine, so you don't get anxious.

I'm glad I had this pandemic just to spend every day with you for a year. Your



absence hurts me a lot, my dog. I miss you terribly. You are mommy's baby forever.

I love you my Bobby Chou. July 22, 2007 – March 22, 2021.

Catherine Dumouchel lives on
St. Catherine St.

ATTENTION

Looking for an immediate home for a sixteen year old cat who was recently diagnosed with diabetes and needs insulin injections twice a day. All medical supplies, vet appointments, litter and food will be paid for. If you are willing and able to care for him, please leave a message at **514 935-2664**.

.....
Transfers, cont'd. from p. 19
ber's registrations is the Old Post Office, corner Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd., which had been transformed into a multi-use “shopping centre” in 1979 but has been through various revisions since then, to the point that it finally narrowed down to a single office/commercial use for a wine wholesaler.

Designed by American architect Willis A. Ritchie, anywhere between 1907 and 1917 (with various sources offering different dates), it has been designated as a Category 1 building by the city, meaning any modifications are subject to very strict rules. It sold for \$5.6 million.



infoWESTMOUNT

2021.04.06 • Vol. 2/7

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Lundi 3 mai****NEWS**NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Monday, May 3rd****Sports et loisirs : inscriptions pour activités d'été**

La période d'inscription pour les activités sportives et de loisirs pour la saison d'été (mai à août) commence dès le 13 avril et le 20 avril 2021. Consultez le guide d'activités à westmount.org.

**Sports and recreation: summer activity registration**

The registration period for sports and recreation activities for the summer season (May to August) starts on April 13 and April 20, 2021. Consult the activities guide at westmount.org.

Séances du conseil en direct sur Zoom

À partir du 6 avril 2021, les séances du Conseil seront diffusées en direct sur Zoom. Assistez ou posez des questions. Info : westmount.org

Horaires d'entretien des rues en vigueur

L'horaire de nettoyage des rues a repris le 1^{er} avril. Évitez une contravention — respectez les restrictions affichées lorsque vous stationnez votre véhicule. westmount.org

Ouverture des terrains de tennis à surface dure le 12 avril

Les utilisateurs doivent détenir une carte d'accès aux installations sportives et respecter les consignes de santé. westmount.org

Tarifs d'électricité : hausse de 1,3 %

Cette augmentation, qui est entrée en vigueur le 1^{er} avril, est prévue par la Loi visant à simplifier le processus d'établissement des tarifs de distribution d'électricité. westmount.org

Pas de distribution d'arbres en 2021

Le programme annuel de distribution d'arbres n'aura pas lieu cette année. Nous encourageons nos résidents à se procurer un arbre dans une pépinière. westmount.org

COVID-19 : mesures en vigueur

Visitez quebec.ca/sante pour connaître les plus récentes mesures annoncées par le gouvernement du Québec.

Council meetings live on Zoom

As of April 6, 2021, Council sittings will be streamed live on Zoom. Find out how to attend or ask questions. Info: westmount.org

Street maintenance schedule in effect

The street cleaning schedule resumed April 1st. Avoid a fine — pay attention to the posted restrictions when parking your vehicle. westmount.org

Hard-surface tennis courts scheduled to open April 12

Users must have a valid 2021 Sports Facility Membership Card and respect the health guidelines. westmount.org

Electricity rates: increase of 1.3%

This increase, which came into effect April 1st, is in accordance with the Act to simplify the process for establishing electricity distribution rates. westmount.org

No tree distribution in 2021

The annual tree distribution programme will not take place this year. We encourage residents to purchase a tree from a nursery. westmount.org

COVID-19: measures in effect

Visit the quebec.ca/sante website for details about the latest measures announced by the Gouvernement du Québec.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE**Nouveau service de recommandations de livres personnalisées**

Rempissez le formulaire en ligne pour recevoir une liste de livres recommandés par courriel ou pour que nous mettions de côté pour vous une sélection de livres que vous pourrez récupérer. westlib.org

Service de cueillette sans contact

La Bibliothèque demeure fermée au public, mais vous pouvez réserver vos items en ligne ou par courriel. Vous aurez 3 jours pour les ramasser selon l'horaire suivant :

Lundi et mercredi : 13 h à 17 h
Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h
Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h.

Concerts d'été : appel de soumissions

Date limite : le 14 avril. Les musiciens sont invités à soumettre une candidature en ligne pour les Concerts d'été et des Concerts éphémères en plein air 2021. westmount.org.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers

Invitation aux artistes de Westmount pour la

saison 2021-2022 de la Galerie. La date limite pour soumettre un dossier est le **11 mai 2021**. Info : galerieart@westmount.org ou 514 989-5265. westmount.org

Conférence : Introduction to Small-Scale Urban Permaculture

Vendredi 9 avril, 19 h, sur Zoom, en anglais, avec Liza Charbel, cofondatrice de Jardins sans frontières. Inscription sur [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca).

Rencontre d'auteure : Linda Leith

Mercredi 21 avril, sur Zoom. Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à Linda Leith, OC, écrivaine, éditrice et fondatrice de Metropolis bleu, qui parlera de son nouveau livre, *The Girl from Dream City: A Literary Life*. Inscription sur [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca). westlib.org

Journée du cinéma canadien

Mercredi 21 avril, en ligne. Une projection virtuelle du film *La passion d'Augustine* de Léa Pool. Inscription sur [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca). westlib.org

L'heure du conte en ligne

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Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Outdoor concerts: call for submissions

Deadline: April 14. Musicians are invited to apply online for the 2021 Summer Concert and Pop-Up Concert Series. westmount.org

Gallery at Victoria Hall:**Call for submissions**

Westmount artists are invited to apply for the Gallery's 2021-2022 season. The deadline to submit a proposal is **May 11, 2021**.

Info: galerieart@westmount.org or 514 989-5265. westmount.org

Lecture: Introduction to Small-Scale Urban Permaculture

Friday, April 9, 7 p.m. on Zoom. With Liza Charbel, cofounder of Gardens Without Borders. Register on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca).

Author event: Linda Leith

Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m., on Zoom. Join Linda Leith, OC, writer, publisher, and founder of Blue Metropolis, as she discusses her new book, *The Girl from Dream City: A Literary Life*. Register on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca). westlib.org

National Canadian Film Day

Wednesday, April 21, online. The Library presents a virtual screening of Léa Pool's *La Passion d'Augustine*. Register on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ca). westlib.org

Storytime online

Discover our stories online. westlib.org





City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Ministerial astronaut awes students

How do you awe hundreds of energetic boisterous children? Invite an astronaut to speak.

MP Marc Garneau, the first Canadian

tend to get lost etc, there is a large replacement pile.) The masked and socially-distanced winter-clad kids sat outside in their “bubbles” as they listened in fascination to

anecdotes about his space rides, one could have heard a pin drop as the rapt kids held their enthusiasm in check. Those students inside the school participated via live



Grade 4, 5 and 6 Roslyn students outside to meet MP Marc Garneau. Grades 1, 2 and 3 watched on monitors inside the school.

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in space, visited Roslyn School on March 30 to replace the institution’s aged Canadian flag.

The day I arrived, the faded wind-torn flags of Canada and Quebec drooped sadly at half-staff.

“We are commemorating COVID victims,” explained Roslyn School principal Joanna Genovezos, who introduced Garneau. Also present on the damp, gray day were vice principal Laura Fundaro and the ESBM’s Daniel Smajovits, who explained that the school is provided with free masks by the provincial government.

Students take one home to wear to school the next morning and receive a new one after lunch. (Of course, as many, many

Garneau’s description of seeing “the Earth and all 200 countries as I was surrounded by the blackness of space. As well as working, I had a lot of fun: I could float, and walk on the ceiling!”

(Murmurs of “wow” drifted across the chalk-covered yard.)

Canada’s minister of Foreign Affairs congratulated the young audience, acknowledging how difficult it is to stay distanced, and reminding them of the Big Three: Wear a mask; Wash your hands and Stay apart.

He noted that before he took the shuttle in 1984, 1996 and 2000, he and the entire crew had to quarantine for a week.

As he continued to offer interesting

stream. The ceremony ended with the entire school – inside and out – singing “O Canada,” along with the adults, and, of course, the space star.

The enjoyable event was organized by local res Suzanne Wexler, noted with her son Moses Hauerstock (grade 2). Local provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone delivered a new Quebec flag later in the day. Now our famous local school will sport new colours, ready to snap to attention on windy days.

See p. 1 for another photo.



The outgoing flags – at half-staff to remember COVID victims.

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School's campus inches closer to Westmount

The Priory buying next-door house for campus expansion



BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With the 75th anniversary of its founding set for next year, the Priory School on The Boulevard just east of Westmount is undertaking an expansion program with the acquisition of the Buchanan House located next door to the school property.

In a media release, the administration says the addition of the house to The Priory campus will allow the school to expand its curriculum and add new spaces, while keeping the school's kindergarten to grade 6 academic offering in line with its

The Priory's Head of School Christian St-Pierre is seen here on March 31 in front of the Buchanan House, the property the school has acquired to expand its campus.

founders' vision, which was that "happy children learn best."

In 1947 when The Priory was founded by Alphonsine Howlett and Frances E. Balantyne, the school was located first at Le Manoir, an old stone house on the grounds of Église Notre Dame de Grâce on NDG Ave. in NDG.

Since 1949, the school has been located at 3120 The Boulevard, a block east of the Westmount-downtown border.

According to head of school Christian St-Pierre, The Priory had been hoping to expand the campus for some time, and the purchase of the Buchanan House will finally make this possible.

The administration plans to hold two virtual open houses in April (one in Eng-

lish and one in French), partly for parents of new students to learn about the school, but also to inform neighbours about the expansion.

Although The Priory campus has undergone several expansions over the past seven decades, including the addition of a more institution-like building at the rear, the school's main pavilion at the front, as well as the Buchanan House next door, convey an old-world charm that harmonizes with the surroundings.

A public relations spokesperson for The Priory told the *Independent* that as the Buchanan House is already zoned for residential and institutional use, a zoning change won't be necessary.

Regarding the possibility that the size

of The Priory's student population could grow with the expansion, he said, "It's possible that we increase. But right now, what we're looking at is the possibility of just expanding with our existing population. That's what we're looking at."

The school's virtual open houses are taking place on April 22 in English and on April 23 in French at 1 pm on both days. Those who wish to register for the open houses can do so at: www.priory.qc.ca/openhouse.



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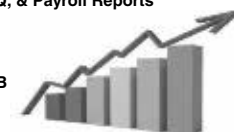


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Kovac to represent Montreal at provincial science fair

Selwyn House student and Westmounter Edward Kovac won first place at the Montreal area's L'Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec science fair in the junior category (grades 7 and 8) on March 27 and will be one of 30 students to represent Montreal when it and the 11 other areas of Quebec compete at the 43rd Super Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec, finale québécoise from April 22 to 25.

His project "*Entendre, mais à quel prix?*" was about hearing aids. He also won the Prix Antidote for the quality of his French and the Prix Ted Rogers.

There were 108 participants at the Montreal fair. It was, and the provincial final will be, held virtually.



Edward Kovac to the *Independent* March 31:

"My grandmother has hearing problems and she always complains when she buys new hearing aids (they are expensive), so I decided to try and make cheaper ones. I bought a 3D printer and I started creating the tube and the box for a hearing aid, and then I bought the electronics, and I started working."



Edward Kovac, bottom right, reacts to the emcee announcing his junior-category win at the online awards ceremony of L'Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Open Minds a virtual success!

during this “moment” can happen virtually. Tickets were \$225 (35 and under \$135). Guests collected their dinner from Beatrice, one of the city’s most renowned dining spots. Then, safely at home, they enjoyed the delicious meal while listening to live streaming music by DJ Flores.

And those of you who love to dance at home and perhaps have been doing just that for the past months – okay, me too! – Flores’ beats meant that the evening could be happily danced away “because it’s good therapy” – as the invitation read.

The Open Minds Dancing Event raised

\$500,000 for the Douglas Mental Health University, the largest mental health research and care centre in Quebec. Since 2017, the event has raised more than \$2,400,000 to support the Douglas Foundation’s mission. Co-chairs were **Olivier Desmarais**, chair/CEO Power Sustainable Capital; **Adriana Embiricos Coumoundouros**, consultant, and **Mark Smith**, president Pandion Investments Ltd.

What a great opportunity to remove sweatpants (you know who you are!) and don dress-up – finally!

Committee members *continued on p. 26*

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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 25
were co-chairs **Sarah Ivory** and **Louise Chagnon-Bucheit**, working with Westmounters **Susan Doherty**, **Jill Drummond**, **Alicia Hamilton**, **Caroline Dillon** and **Aphrodite Salas**, along with **Marisa Giannetti**, **Leena Lakdawala**, **Marion Lefebvre-Buchanan**, **Yolanda Page**, **Michèle Plourde**, **Isabelle Roberge**, **Pam Salzman**, **Nancy Simard** and **Jeannie Vondjidis**.

Gold sponsors were Banque Nationale, BDC, The Rossy Foundation, Power Corp. of Canada and Intact. Silver were Bell, BMO, Metro, Pear Tree, Canderel, and Services Financieres David Forest. Bronze were KPMG, Davies, Gildan, PWL and the



From left, Sarah Ivory, Marion Lefebvre and Doug Buchanan, and Susan Doherty and former Selwyn House headmaster Hal Hannafor.

SAQ, which provided the wines.

Beatrice offered a traditional Italian menu of antipasto, primo, secondo and il

dolce – a sweet ending of a hazelnut Bud-dino. Edible flowers triggered hopes of spring.

Partygoers saw each other on the Zoom screen. By 7 pm kitchens and dining rooms were full of happy dancers. Some guests upped their home's décor ante with disco lights.

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Please call Nealy to book
your appointment.

Bon courage • Be safe

Nealy Chea



MARIE SICOTTE

REAL ESTATE BROKER

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BARNES
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

GROUPE SUTTON CENTRE OUEST INC

SICOTTE
& CO

NEW



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

This remarkable unit features refined architectural details and quality materials complementing its incredible panoramic view. Visit our site to get inspired by a recently remodeled identical unit by renowned Scott Yetman.

MLS: 9851768

\$2,950,000

NEW



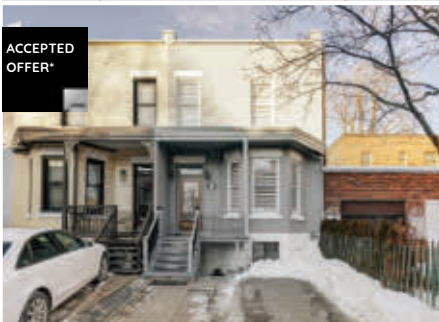
2 WS #203

Located in the prestigious Westmount Square, this brand new unit is a bright open concept with all of the space you need to make it home.

MLS : 11344013

\$1,195,000

ACCEPTED
OFFER*

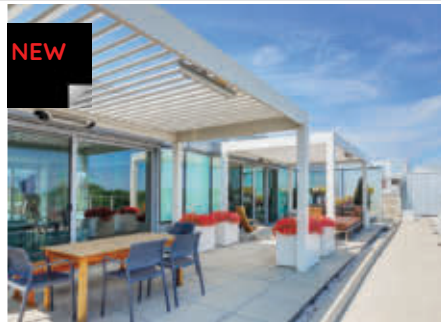


WESTMOUNT

MLS : 21419057

Bright home near King George park and the Victoria Village. *Conditional.

NEW

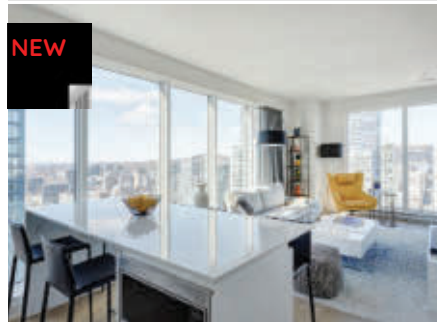


LE SUD-OUEST | MYST

MLS : 9740753

Conveniently located penthouse facing the canal, home office by the water. 2 large private terraces.

NEW



TOUR DES CANADIENS

MLS : 26244042

This magnificent corner unit on the 50th floor has breathtaking views of downtown Montreal.

SOLD



AHUNTSIC

MLS : 18467706

Prime location! Charming 4 Bdr property w/ large deck & garden close to park Maurice-Richard.

WELCOME TO THE PRESTIGIOUS WESTMOUNT SQUARE !



3 WS - #1816

MLS : 16812402

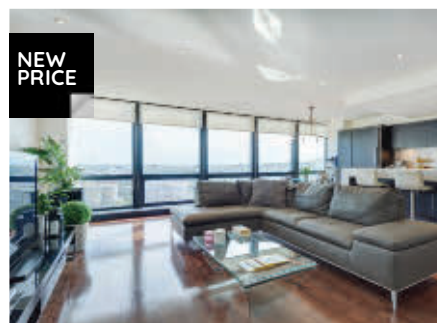
Luminous 1475 SF condo w/ open concept kitchen & panoramic views of the Mountain.



2 WS - #1201

MLS : 21367164

Gorgeous condo w/ open concept kitchen & breathtaking views.



NEW
PRICE

3 WS - #1915

MLS : 25873836

Spacious unit on the 19th floor w/ breathtaking views and Western exposure.



2 WS #505

MLS : 23189943

Magnificent 1 Bdr unit w/ incredible views of the Mountain.

MORE UNITS AVAILABLE! CONTACT US!



8 av. Lorraine, Westmount
\$1,550,000



1932 Tupper, Shaughnessy Village
\$1,585,000



3089 The Boulevard, Westmount adj.
\$1,825,000



Accepted offer
663 av. Murray Hill, Westmount



4691 av. Grosvenor,
Westmount adj.



Sold with multiple offers
4265 St. Hubert, Plateau Mont Royal



Sold with multiple offers
1941 Tupper, Shaughnessy Village



Sold with multiple offers
655 av. Lansdowne, Westmount

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